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Glen A. Pierce

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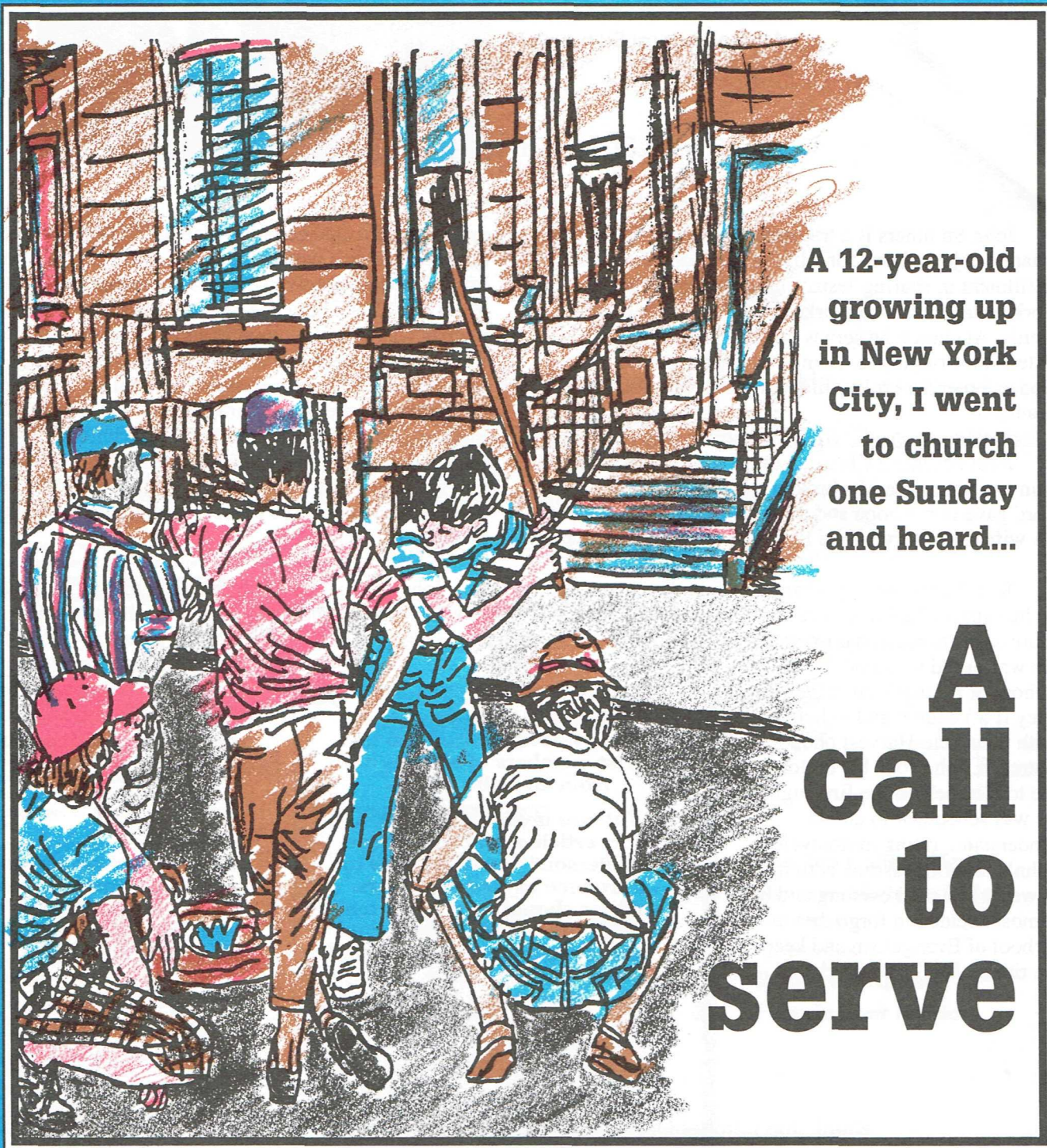
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VISITOR

October 1993

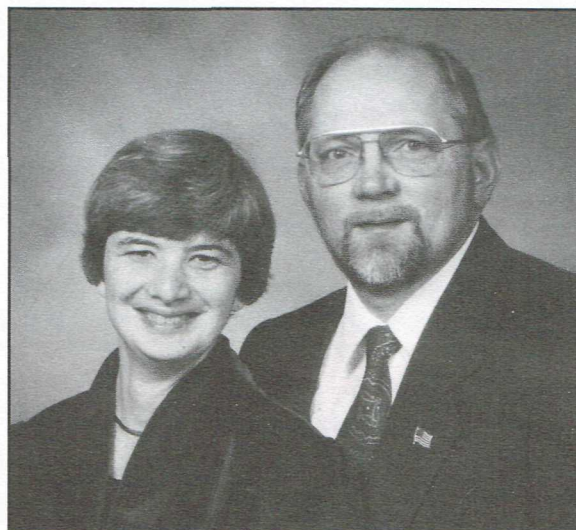


A 12-year-old
growing up
in New York
City, I went
to church
one Sunday
and heard...

**A
call
to
serve**

Special People

John and Carol Summers



John Summers is a transmission mechanic. That is what he enjoys doing for a living. But John finds true fulfillment in sharing Jesus Christ with other people. At work he talks with co-workers, at home he talks with his family. At church he serves on the Evangelism and Extension Committee. John is a living example of how God can mend a broken life and turn it into something beautiful.

John became a Christian as an adult. Following the pain and heartache of a broken marriage, coming to the Lord gave him a hope and a future. Now, he works with his wife Carol serving the Lord and encouraging others.

John had a desire to share his faith. An experience he had sparked a fire within him that made him even more eager to reach out to others. He was asked to attend the School of Evangelism at the Hershey (Pa.) church and to help with their Tele-Harvest phone outreach. John rode his motorcycle to Hershey on the first night he was scheduled to attend. Understand, riding motorcycle is John's favorite pastime activity. It was a beautiful evening and he almost decided to forgo the School of Evangelism and keep on riding. But he stopped, and

that first night changed him. One of the first phone calls he made was to a woman who had drifted away from the Lord. She desperately needed to know that God still loved her. The experience of sharing hope with this woman was a turning point in John's life. He had found a new way to reach out to people in the community. After the Hershey Tele-Harvest, he went on to be actively involved in the phone campaigns at the Hempfield, Summit View, and Speedwell Heights churches. Out of the hundreds of phone calls John made, the Lord allowed him to contact people who were seeking help. His phone calls, inviting people to church, brought them the hope they needed.

John's daily goal is to live a life that reflects the love of Jesus. Witnessing is not something he does just over the phone anymore; it is a lifestyle that he has adopted. May His enthusiasm become contagious so that we all can reach out and care, demonstrating the love of God.

"Special People" profiles a wide variety of Brethren in Christ members of all ages and from all walks of life.

YOU are invited to submit a short article about some "Special Person" you would like to introduce to Visitor readers. Articles should be typewritten, preferably 300-400 words, and must have the approval of the person being profiled. If your article is accepted for publication, we will contact you to secure a photo for publication (which will be returned).

Mail your article to Evangelical Visitor, P.O. Box 166, Nappanee, IN 46550.

John and Carol Summers are active in the Pequea Brethren in Christ Church, near Lancaster, Pa., as is the author of this Special People article, Shari Steager.

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**A 12-year-old
growing up in
New York City, I
went to church
one Sunday
and heard...**

A call to serve

by G. Ron Darbee

For as long as memory served me, a craving to explore the uncharted wilderness filled my waking moments. All I ever wanted to be was a world traveler, and—as is common with 12-year-old boys—my interests were evidenced in every moment of play and every conversation. I imagine a disclaimer is required at this point, if only to say that this was Sunday. Had you happened to ask me on Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday, then all I ever wanted to be was a sea captain, a baseball player, or possibly a hot dog vendor—not necessarily in that order. But as I've pointed out, this was Sunday.

Having grown accustomed to my propensity to change career aspirations more frequently than my underwear, my parents contented themselves in the knowledge that I was cheap to feed and caused rela-

tively little trouble outside of the home. Not to say that I was maintenance-free, by any means. A recent jaunt into the New York City sewer system (in search of buried treasure), left my parents anxiously anticipating the next change of occupational direction.

"Can't you pretend to be an accountant?" my mother asked as she separated my exploring clothes into baskets marked "bleach" and "burn." "How about a grocer or a teacher or maybe a fireman? Wait! Scratch fireman. I don't even want you to think about becoming a fireman."

"Yeah, Mom. Maybe." Not that I intended to give the idea any serious consideration, but she looked as if she could use the affirmation.

Sitting in the pew that morning, beneath the vaulted ceilings and stained glass windows, my thoughts

returned once again to world travel. Our pastor had stepped aside, as was his custom when receiving special guests, to allow a visitor to deliver the week's message. Towering above the pulpit stood a missionary. Not at all the meek, quiet man I expected. Probably the result of one too many Tarzan movies, the word "missionary" conjured up a mental picture of a frail little man attached uncomfortably to a heavy wooden pole, destined to serve as kindling for some native fire. But here stood an orator of no small proportion—Johnny Weissmuller with a tie. I listened intently as the missionary addressed our congregation.

He spoke of places straight from the pages of *National Geographic*—great, proud peoples who needed the Word of God, exotic lands and foreign customs, untamed wilds and uncharted territory, powerful tribal

chiefs and poor, hungry masses. He spoke, not from a textbook, but from experience. He spoke with authority and conviction. He spoke directly to me.

"And in closing, my Christian brothers and sisters, let me say that our Lord did not call us to spread his Word only where it is convenient, only where it is comfortable, but to spread the Word to all nations, to all people, regardless of their wealth or the color of their skin. I leave you with our Lord's own words: 'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.' Will you hear his call, fellow Christians? And more to the point, will you answer it?"

Yes! I wanted to jump to my feet and scream for the entire congregation to hear. Yes, I had heard the call, and yes I would answer. Filled with enthusiasm, I bolted from the sanctuary before the last note of the closing hymn had drifted to the doorway.

Anxious to share this revelation with my family, I ran the three city blocks that separated the church and our brownstone. With each long stride, I hammered out the particulars of how we would reach our destination. First, we would sell our belongings; that might take a few days. Dad would have to quit his job, but that shouldn't present a problem. Then, there was disenrollment from school; maybe that should be first, in case the folks needed my help. The thought that my family might not fully embrace this venture never occurred to me. After all, God was calling.

Using the wrought iron railing of our stoop as a brake, I swung myself up the steps and burst through the front door. Chest heaving, lungs gasping for breath, I came to a halt in the living room, prepared to share the news of our good fortune.

"Mom, Dad! We're going to be missionaries!"

"How much is it going to cost?" my father asked from behind the Sunday funnies.

Realizing they failed to grasp the

full meaning of the concept, I paused to catch my breath and proceeded with a detailed explanation of our calling and my plan. Thinking it best to save the part regarding my disenrollment from school until the end, I began with the good news about Dad quitting his job.

"Are you crazy?" my father asked. "Did you hear this kid? Are you crazy?"

It became obvious at this point that it may have been necessary for them to actually attend the service in order to hear the call. Hoping to clarify things for them, I recounted the missionary's sermon in full detail and awaited their response.

"Our travel plans for the coming year don't include anything north of the Catskill Mountains or south of the Jersey shore," my father explained. "If, when you're older, you still want to be a missionary, your mother and I will understand. Case closed."

Disappointed, but not defeated, I went off to my room to reevaluate the situation.

Remembering a piece of Scripture that spoke of a willingness to leave family for the sake of Christ, I reasoned my circumstances as appropriate to the verse and considered my alternatives.

If my parents were unwilling to leave home for the sake of the call, I would have to go it without them. Deeming myself a sort of Christian free agent, I headed to our pastor's residence to offer my services to the visiting missionary.

Following the introductions, the missionary listened to my offer intently, signifying what I assumed to be his agreement with occasional

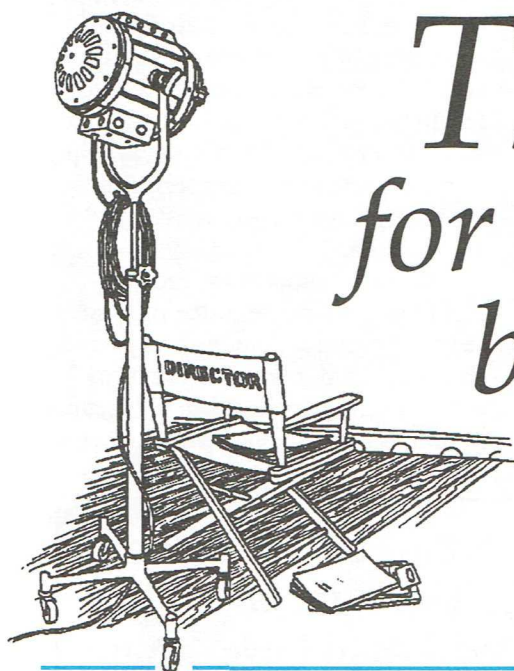
nods of the head. But surprisingly, he agreed with my parents. He talked about God's plan for the family, my need for an education, and something about crossing state lines with a minor. He spoke of the need for missionary supporters right here at home, and how I could be of help through prayer and correspondence. He thanked me for my enthusiasm, but reluctantly declined my offer.

Somewhat older now, I realize that God did call me to the mission field, though not at all as I might have expected. I never made it to Africa or the Far East; I don't speak a foreign language and barely have a

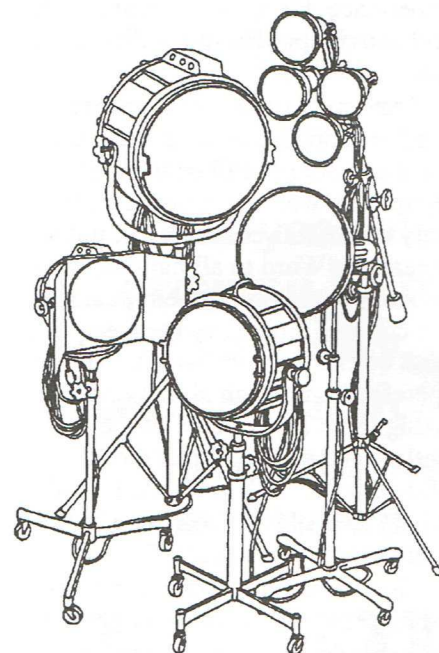
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command of my own. But God has called me to witness right here, among my friends, neighbors and co-workers. By sharing my testimony and the source of my hope, I am allowed to serve in the way God intended for me. And while I will never forget that missionary and the sense of disappointment I experienced that day, I smile at the thought of the childish excitement, the willingness to change directions at the drop of a hat. It is with exactly that level of enthusiasm that I hope to meet the Lord's invitations every time he calls.

G. Ron Darbee lives in Manteca, Calif.



They come for the show but refuse to grow



by Keith Drury

People are rushing to Wesleyan churches. In the last two years, attendance in the morning service has zoomed upward. New people are coming in. No wonder. Things are exciting. We've got lively music, excellent sound and lights, quality dramas, need-oriented preaching, and magnificent musicals. Morale is up. Attendance is up. Excitement is up.

But do we have more committed Christians? Is godliness up? Christ-likeness? Commitment? Or, do we have bigger audiences who, as Jack Hayford says, "come for the show, but refuse to grow"?

Recently a minister from one of our growing churches said tongue in cheek, "Our people are converted in every way except their mindset, lifestyle and values." He defines the problem perfectly. Even after we have gotten people "converted" many still act and think as if they are still unconverted. Just because they come for the show does not mean they are willing to grow...or teach...or tithe.

We've had a growing new class of Christians in the last decade or so. This is the fastest growing type of Christian today. They are the "unconverted converted" or the "secular

Christian" as some scholars call them. These folk claim to be saved, but don't let religion cramp their style. They are consumers, moving through churches as they would a salad bar, picking and choosing what appeals to them, and leaving the rest alone. They generally select the positive, helpful, pleasant benefits of the gospel and leave behind the painful, sacrificial, cross-carrying, and judgment aspects. They are a shallow bunch and a happy lot. But there is a danger here.

I am certainly not against this great reach-out effort. On the contrary, I'm delighted that thousands of people are coming to church to "check it out and see if they like it." I am equally pleased when they do like our entry-level seeker-sensitive services. After all, I am often quoted as saying, "It's a sin to make the gospel boring." (Actually it was John Maxwell who popularized this saying, but I agree with him.)

So what's the problem? The problem is spiritual shallowness. We are gradually getting a spiritual river "a mile wide and an inch deep." This new caste of Christian is largely untransformed spiritually. They like church. (At least one hour a week of

it). They even like the warmth and support of a home group where people encourage and help them. And they'll even sign up for classes on CPR or "How to potty train your child."

But when it comes to committed discipleship, they pass. They like the parts of religion which help them cope, but not the parts calling for sacrifice, commitment, change, and obedience.

Some argue that these folk aren't converted at all. They say that people with largely unchanged lives—persons with unconverted values, mindset, and lifestyles—are truly unconverted. Maybe they're right. Perhaps we have democratized salvation, lowering the threshold to enable just about anyone to call him or herself a Christian with no cost, no change, and no repentance. "You don't have to change...just say yes."

Jimmy Johnson once told me, "Half the people you are trying to get sanctified really need to be saved." Hmmmm. Perhaps he's right. Could it be that we are calling people "Christian" who are still unconverted? If so, no wonder they like the show better than the opportunities to grow. Even the unconverted will like

the church's help with coping. But only the truly converted have the Holy Spirit inside them tugging them toward growth. As J. R. Mitchell remarked, "Will thousands of Wesleyans end up in hell, better able to cope?"

Our efforts to "disciple" this class of shallow Christians have failed. Oh, they'll get into a care group, a support group, or a class helping them succeed in their job, or as parents. But by and large, the "secular Christian" checks out of tough discipleship. Could it be that our efforts fail because these folk are not yet converted? Can you disciple unconverted people? Instruct them, sure. But disciple them?

This kind of Christian is not that new. There are plenty of them in the so-called "mainline" churches. On mission fields around the world they are called "rice Christians." So long as they get the benefits, they'll claim whatever it is you're preaching. In the Middle Ages, there were millions of them. Paul dealt with a church full of them in Corinth. And, of course, Jesus had thousands in his services in the period following the Great Free Giveaway Dinner of bread and fish. (However, when he turned to preaching the cross and sacrifice, he lost the entire crowd.)

We have them too. I suppose we always have. It's just that this class of "Christian" is growing so fast recently. It's a bull market! Attendance is up! People are coming! The world likes us! But shallowness is up, and commitment is down.

So, what does this have to do with Sunday school? When the church finally gets alarmed at spiritual shallowness where will it turn? True, there's not that much concern yet. We're still quite thrilled with ourselves...and our popularity with the world. But the church of Jesus Christ is self-correcting. Eventually the Holy Spirit will create deep then broad concern for the spiritual shallowness of the day. It's already coming. Colson's book, *The Body*, is the first widely-read alarm signal. At least four or five others are on their way. The church will eventually get

concerned at the wonderfully huge group of entry-level Christians and try to figure out a way to get these folk to take the second and third...and tenth steps of commitment. We will quit talking so much about the purely sociological notion of "assimilation" and begin to focus on "commitment," a spiritual solution to the spiritual problem. So, sooner or later, the church will see the growing problem of shallowness. And when the church gets alarmed at spiritual shallowness, where will it turn?

Will it hustle to increase the quality of its dramas and musicals? Will it try to raise the excitement level of its living Christmas trees, or purchase more expensive spotlights and sound boards? Will it launch a dozen more warm comfy weekday support groups? Will these things produce the committed cross-carrying discipleship Jesus calls us to?

No. There is nothing wrong with these methods to get people in the door and to meet their felt needs. But they seldom produce sacrificial commitment. They are simply good first-step methods. And, the more they succeed, the more first-step Christians we'll have. Eventually the church will be crammed with first-steppers. It is then that the real leaders—the spiritual leaders—will get alarmed. But to what will these leaders turn? How do you get "the masses" disciplined and growing? Where will the church turn?

The church will turn where it has always turned. It will turn to teaching. And what will we teach? The Bible—what else? How else to get the half-converted Christians fully converted? All kinds of things will get people in the door. But teaching the Word is the only way to get a person's mindset, values, and lifestyle fully converted.

This means that the Sunday school and Sunday school-like programs will see a resurgence soon. In the next decade, we'll see a great "back to the Bible" movement. Some pastors will launch top-level schooling classes with tough standards of homework, tests, and even grades. The Sunday school will get back to the Bible as its authority and the "let's share opinions and pool our ignorance" classes will gradually disappear. Pastors will get tired of being limited to the entry-level seeker service and weekday care groups. They will hunger more and more for deep Bible teaching. They will take over the Sunday school, the best single scheduled opportunity for Bible teaching in the week. The next 10

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years will be the decade of Bible teaching—from the pulpit and in the classroom. You just watch! How else will we lead entry-level Christians to spiritual growth and commitment?

So, if you can teach the Bible in a way that produces Christlikeness, commitment, and holiness, hang around. The church will be needing you soon!

Keith Drury is the General Director for the Local Church Education Department of The Wesleyan Church. Reprinted by permission.

Pacific Conference Men's Retreat

by Kent Byer and Ray Bailey (on behalf of the Pacific Conference Men's Ministry Team)

"Fire on the Mountain" would be a good way to describe the Fifth Annual Pacific Conference Men's Retreat. From June 4-6 at Mile High Pines Camp, 130 men from the churches of the conference gathered to hear Lou Engle preach on "Rebuilding the Altars of your Forefathers."

Reminiscent of classic holiness camp meeting and in a straightforward manner, Lou called for the men to reclaim the heritage of the Brethren in Christ and rebuild the commitment and power of holy and Spirit-filled living. As the son of Gordon and Eunice Engle and descendant of Jacob Engle, Lou brought the power of our Brethren in Christ heritage to bear on the commitment to live lives that will make a difference in a world leading to destruction. He called for repentance and revival from men who are the scriptural leaders of their households and churches. Just as the prophets called on Israel to repair their broken altars and return to the God of their fathers, so Lou called for the Pacific Conference men to do likewise.

By the end of the Saturday morning session, men were gathered in confession and prayer, weeping and crying to the Lord to cleanse and empower them. Many were in tears for the intercession of the Lord in their marriages and for their children. Public confessions of secret sins that

had been disabling their walk with the Lord were given, and forgiveness pronounced by supportive brothers. It was common to see men who had never met holding each other in prayer, pouring out their hurts before the Lord. Pastors asked forgiveness of church members. Deep-rooted bitterness and anger toward others, years in the making, were laid to rest. Men cried out to have their love for their spouses restored. Earnest prayers were offered for the restoration of the Upland College property to the church and the service of Christ. (It is now owned by an occult group.)

Keith Ward (Moreno Valley) led the men in singing both choruses and classic hymns. The power and sincerity of the heartfelt singing literally shook the window of the fellowship hall (as one camp worker observed). Men lifted up their hands in supplication to the Lord as they expressed the desires of their hearts in response to the music. At the beginning chords of certain songs, men would begin weeping.

In a significant way, God provided for the continued blessing on into Saturday afternoon. Two inches of snow covered the camp in a late spring storm (a new record for Southern California!). The sports activities planned for the afternoon were reduced because of the storm. Many men

spent the afternoon in prayer and conversation with other brothers. Lou gave instruction to some on the practice of fasting. Lou observed that the snow was possibly God's way of confirming the cleansing and confession occurring at the retreat.

As sessions continued through Sunday morning, groups of men from churches could be seen gathering to pray and talk about how the revival fire could be carried home. Covenants were made to continue the prayer and support of each other after returning home. Plans were made to gather regularly to pray for the fire to fall on their home congregations.

The ending session saw the men gather in a group, praying and laying hands on Bishop Cober, the Pacific Conference Board of Directors, pastors, camp managers, and each other. They prayed for the protection and purity of their leaders and pastors. Prayers were offered for the outpouring of revival on the Brethren in Christ Church. A final song was sung and they departed to their homes.

It is the sincere prayer of the men of the Pacific Conference that this revival will not die. These men are calling for the Brethren in Christ Church to arise and rebuild the altars our forebears built, and to worship the Lord and be called faithful. ■

Planning for spiritual renewal

by Henry A. Ginder

"Energized to Evangelize" was the theme for the 1986 General Conference. The intent was to urge and instruct our people to sense the need for the power of the Holy Spirit to prepare us to do evangelism.

This writing is being done in one of our churches in Tennessee. We are in the midst of the last of nine revival series, (which I call "Spiritual Growth Series"). This is a 10-week tour. We ministered in seven meetings for other denominations and two for the Brethren in Christ. These figures alone may tell us something about needing a new focus in the Brethren in Christ Church on renewal.

Review

The Brethren in Christ church was born in revival. In fact, all churches are born in revival, at least to some extent. Rev. Harry Fink, one of our revival ministers, was over 100 years old when he died. At his funeral I reminded the folk that he was the end of an era. He had one revival meeting that lasted 12 weeks. He preached 9 weeks before anyone got saved, then continued 3 more weeks while people gave their lives to Christ.

Even in my own ministry, there is a great difference between those years and now. I began in the late 1930s, the concluding years of the last great revival movement. The series were always two weeks long with many three-week meetings. I had one four-

week meeting. There was large attendance. Many times the people could not all get inside the church. They looked in through windows. In one of our churches, the ushers propped up the floor to assure that the church would not cave in. In my home church, while preaching a two-week series, I remember the church was filled with chairs in all aisles, and the ushers informed me that they had seated 100 persons behind the pulpit on two floors of Sunday school rooms. We had no public address system, so I had to speak loudly enough so that those behind me also could hear.

Now I have many one-week meetings, also many four- or five-day series. Sometimes it is only a two- or three-day weekend.

In our day, most of the conversions occur in private consultations of various types. Many persons come to full surrender and cleansing and Spirit fullness by personal counseling. I heartily endorse these new approaches. I often say that in addition to friendship evangelism and hospitality evangelism, I have used a new term—"situational evangelism." That means "evangelism wherever we sit."

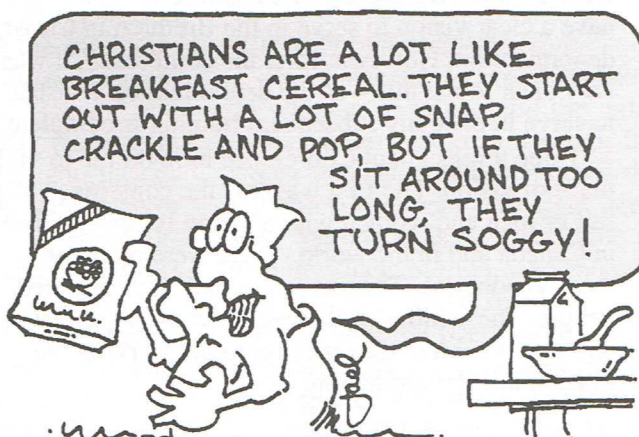
But with all this, we must guard against becoming casual and careless.

We are now a part of an intense generation. Our commitment to TV is demanding.

Our work schedule often includes both spouses working and at least one of them moonlighting. The demands on our teenagers are intensive. I often say that the busiest people on earth

 **Pontius' Puddle**

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are the parents of teenagers. Then, our recreational needs bring heavy demands on our families. I am not negative to all these, but we must reckon with them.

Revive

Yes, we need to revive our revivals. I affirm our general leaders and bishops for their heavy and earnest emphasis on prayer and fasting. I believe this emphasis influenced the fine spirit of our 1992 General Conference. Many denominations are much more prayer conscious and revival aware.

Second Chronicles 7:14 says it well. This is a formula for renewal, steps to revival. God clearly says we need to do four things and he will do three things. We need to humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face, and turn from our wicked ways. Then God will hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal our land.

By way of this article, I urge the

church to follow this formula carefully and again be energized to evangelize.

Revise

Let us again arrange for budget and time for a special spiritual focus. In my Spiritual Growth Series, I send out a bulletin insert, which calls for four things:

1. *Pray* every time the Holy Spirit leads you to pray for these meetings.

2. Each person should *read* (daily, if possible) Psalm 51:1-13.

3. Enjoy the pleasure of *inviting* friends and neighbors to the Spiritual Growth Series.

4. Each person should be prepared to *walk* in the light. "New light is delight."

We must observe that in Psalm 51 David is confessing both his *sins* and his *sin*. Verse 13 says, "Then sinners will turn back to you." So I urge us to plan for spiritual renewal for our con-

gregations. We need to plan carefully and prayerfully. Here is why:

1. This is the task of the church. (Matt. 28:16-20)

2. Without having a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, the beautiful people of our world are lost, eternally. (John 3:18)

3. The moral problems of our world and country call for an urgency in renewal of revival and a revival of renewal. There is much evidence that these are the last days of the last days.

4. In the scriptural formula from 2 Chronicles 7:14, God says if *we will*, he will! This is the only valid formula by which we can be energized to evangelize. Of course, the primary force in all this is the Holy Spirit.

Having served the church for many years as bishop, Henry Ginder continues his spiritual growth preaching ministry as well as representing Messiah College and Brethren in Christ Missions across North America.

Canadian Conference sparks vision

by Carol A. Mitchell

At the recent Canadian Conference held in Calgary, Alberta, on July 9-11, it was stressed, "Where there is no vision the people perish" (Prov. 29:18). Before I attended the Canadian Conference, I did not have a clear vision to serve in the Brethren in Christ denomination. However, after the conference, it was very clear to me this was the denomination I wished to serve in once my subsequent training is complete.

Three things about Conference brought me to the place of vision. The first was that the conference was full of men and women with a vision for evangelism in Canada and in the world. There were many of these visionaries. They were not just a few isolated people. These individuals were extremely interesting and it was evident they were enjoying serving the Lord in this denomination.

The second reason falls under the category of affirmation and encouragement. Presently I am a woman being trained for the ministry. Many people I spoke with at Conference were genuinely interested in my training and my desire to serve the Lord. Being a woman was not an issue of concern to them, but my being a child of God in training for his service was a delight to many.

Thirdly, I felt accepted into this body of believers even though I was a Westerner and a woman who does not have a Christian heritage or Brethren in Christ lineage. However, I did marry a man with Brethren in Christ ties. These ties are connected to an important and unusual portion of Scripture: "The Lord is *nigh*. . ."

At one point in the conference the question was raised, "Where have all our Brethren in Christ children gone?" Perhaps they would still be in the denomination if they had been sent to a conference similar to the recent Canadian Conference to be "branded" (at the pancake breakfast) and bonded with their brethren to catch their own personal vision of how to serve in this denomination. Perhaps they too could have left the conference with a definite vision and affirmation to heed God's call in this body of believers, as I did. ■

A sabbatical for six Stauffers

by Jim Stauffer

"A pastor may be considered for a sabbatical after a minimum of seven years of service in one congregation and [with the understanding that there will be] one year of subsequent service to be given in the same church. The purpose of a sabbatical is to provide a pastor, who has served well over an extended period of time, with the opportunity for personal and professional renewal and continuing education" (*Guidelines for Pastors and Congregational Leaders*).

The Brethren in Christ do well in caring for the welfare of their pastoral leadership. Evidence of this is the sabbatical concept.

Having a supportive church board and congregation at Paramount allowed me the confidence and freedom of proposing my plans for a 7-week, 7,700-mile itinerary across the United States. The purpose of the sabbatical as set forth in our *Guidelines* would be accomplished in the following ways:

- Traveling and camping with my wife Jane and our four children, Janelle, Jeff, Julie and Jenna, would provide an excellent opportunity for family and personal growth.

- Visiting various churches along the way and interviewing pastors would provide professional renewal.

- Participating in Narramore Christian Foundation's "Ministers and Missionaries Conference" in Rosemead, Calif., would of course provide that continuing education.

Many memorable moments best capulize that trip. Even on our first



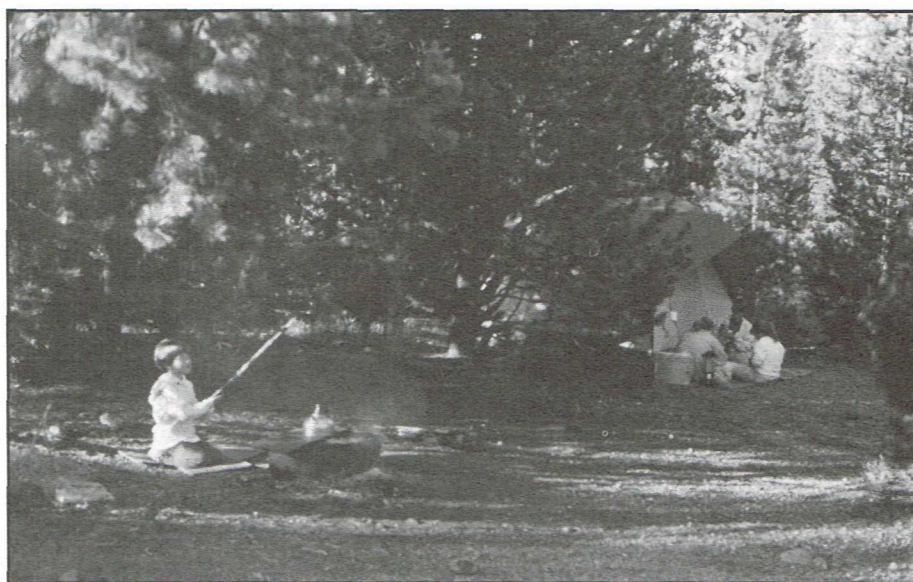
After much planning, packing, and prayer, the day finally arrived for our venture to begin.

day, just 40 miles from home, our six-year-old announced these immortal words, "I can't believe it! I haven't asked 'Are we there yet?'"

The variety of God's creation revealed itself as we peered down the multi-colored chasm of the Grand Canyon, marveled at the mountain peaks of the Grand Tetons, panned the hot, arid desert of Nevada, and later woke up to a frosty morning in Yellowstone. Other highlights included walking through the cemeteries of Belle Springs and Bethel, where former Kansas Brethren in Christ churches stood. Both of Jane's parents were born in Kansas, and our children were grasping the importance of our heritage. At a campsite in Colorado we struck up a conversa-

tion with Nigel, a cyclist from England. Due to illness, he was behind schedule in his coast-to-coast conquest. Packing his bags and bike in the van, not to mention yet another body, proved a challenge, but we were glad to have him join us until we arrived in Los Angeles.

As we planned the trip, we debated on whether or not to add the extra miles venturing north through the Upper Peninsula and then down the thumb of Michigan. The right decision was made as we were able to visit my Uncle Melvin, who had pastored in that state for over four decades with the Brethren in Christ. Because the pastor of the Mooretown congregation was away, my 80-year-old uncle filled the pulpit and for the



After long days of travel, everyone enjoyed just relaxing at our campsite.

first time ever I was privileged to hear him preach.

Many experiences were ours during our journey. Among the sights and sounds:

- Firefighters hosing off the muddy streets of St. Louis as the Mississippi overflowed its banks
- A coyote with trout in mouth darting in front of our van
- A couple of buffalo ambling across our campground
- The lights slowly illuminating the mammoth faces of Mt. Rushmore as we stood and sang the national anthem

But imprinted on my mind will also be the joy of finding Christian brothers and sisters scattered throughout the states. For example:

- The Plymouth Brethren family camping in Kansas who were on a fossil expedition to prove that creation, not evolution, is more plausible
- The jovial pastor and people congregating together out on the plains
- The church planter in California, determined to spread the good news in a city filled with multi-cultures, high crime, and broken families
- The Catholic campground owner

We were able to share not only a ride but also our faith with Nigel, an environmental biologist from England, as he joined us from Colorado to California.

in Michigan who grabbed our hands and led out in a prayer of blessing on my family

From coast to coast, on the farm and in the city streets, I have seen the living faith of fellow believers. As a result, my own faith has been strengthened. Since our return to Maryland, I've been reflecting on the value of our time away.

● A respite from the everyday stress of pastoral duties and responsibilities has allowed me to approach the tasks at hand with renewed determination.

● Hearing my fellow brothers who are in the Lord's work share their joys

and frustrations proved to be a mini-revival to both them and me.

● Setting up and sleeping in a five-person tent literally, as well as emotionally, brought us closer together as a family.

● The Paramount leadership team, especially the deacons, having added responsibilities during my absence created a time of stretching and growth for them.

● The congregation united in prayer for us as a detailed map of our day-by-day plans hung on their refrigerators and accompanied their prayer lists.

Because of all the blessings and benefits we discovered from this sabbatical break, other congregations may want to consider similar opportunities for their pastors. If you wish to meet the criteria set forth in our denomination's guidelines, you may want to initiate discussion and action that would bring renewal to your pastors and to the people they serve.

Jim Stauffer has been the pastor of the Paramount Brethren in Christ Church, Hagerstown, Md., for 10 years. He will report in the next issue on the survey he conducted.



Our best for God

by Anna Jean Mann

"Ron, would you and Nancy be open to go to Malawi for a month or two?"

This was the Secretary of Overseas Ministries, Graybill Brubaker, calling Ron and Nancy Eberly one day last summer. Does this happen very often—that personnel are called and asked to go to Africa?

Let me start further back. Ron and Nancy Eberly are from the Five Forks Brethren in Christ Church in Franklin County, Pa. Ron was deeply involved in helping with "Project Serve." During Ron's involvement with "Project Serve," he met Phil Keefer. Somehow Phil recognized Ron's enthusiasm or perhaps Phil remembered some comments Ron had made about service.

Soon after "Project Serve" was completed, Ron was reading in *The Living Bible* a story about the kingdom of God. Ron was impressed that too many times we offer the leftovers—give excuses as to why we can't give the best to God first. Ron thought, "I have two willing hands...."

About this same time Ron read Doreen Byers' article in the "God at Work" feature of the *Evangelical Visitor*. The Spirit of God was preparing many people at the same time.

Somehow that call from Graybill Brubaker was not a surprise to Ron and Nancy Eberly in the same way it might have been to you or me. God had prepared Ron to be thinking about how he could serve!

Ron and Nancy have four children. Ron has a construction company and his two older married sons help in the business. Nancy had a full-time position as an office manager for a real estate office. Ron is a deacon in his local church and that night he mentioned to his deacon board about this request. Immediately his local church supported him, letting him know that if he decided to go they would help him in any way they could.

Meanwhile Nancy thought, "Oh, not Africa!"

But somehow things began to fall into place; miracle after miracle seemed to happen. Nancy worked through her fear and wanted to be the help she could be to Ron. This meant that she would resign from her job

when they went to Malawi. Somehow all their needs were met and plans were made for them to go in June of 1992 to help Phil and Doreen Byers.

Phil Byers had the supplies needed to do the work. He also arranged for an electrician, who knew some English, and a mason. Then Ron hired the men that were needed to do the rest of the work. There was a young man named Peter who worked as translator for Ron. Things were done as planned; Ron and Nancy came home with the job well done for Byerses.

In the early part of 1993, a continuing problem was the leaking roof of the Andrickses' house in Malawi. Ron and Nancy were thought of again. But this task was even more of a challenge. Ron realized that he had two competent, dedicated, excellent workers in his sons (no surprise to anyone) to take care of his construction business. Ron and Nancy planned to return to Malawi to work on the Andrickses' house.

Nancy felt more confident about returning to Malawi, but as she was picking up the needed medications for their trip, the pharmacist was very negative about a trip to Africa at this time. Somehow this attitude frightened Nancy. She met their pastor soon after this experience and shared it with him. As a result the pastor recruited two people at 6:00 a.m., noon, and 6:00 p.m.—six people each day to pray for them the entire time they were in Malawi. What a comfort and support this was for Ron and Nancy.

This time the supplies and materials were not gathered together, but Ron asked for the same personnel. His main helper had had no work since he had worked with Ron the last time he was in Malawi. Imagine his delight to work with Ron again! Materials were obtained from Blantyre, a three-and-one-half-hour trip from where the Andrickses lived. Nancy helped with the transportation of these supplies. Ron stayed on the site to work and oversee the project. First, an addition was made to the house, and gradually work that usually takes at least six months was done in seven weeks.

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AIDS educator teaches that morality saves lives

by Paul Schrag for Meetinghouse

GWANDA, ZIMBABWE—The brilliant sunlight of an African noon barely pierces the darkness in the tiny, grass-roofed hut where Nukuthula lies suffering from AIDS.

Kneeling at the young woman's bedside, Brethren in Christ mission worker Elizabeth Brandt reads from Psalm 121. "I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

Brandt prays aloud for Nukuthula, who is a Christian. Part of Nukuthula's family has rejected her because she refuses to see a witch doctor about her illness.

Playing outside the hut is Nukuthula's four-year-old daughter, who was born with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. She has exceeded the typical life span of African children with HIV, who often die before they're two.

Brandt brings new sheets for Nukuthula, who lies on blankets because she has no mattress. Nukuthula smiles and thanks her.

Later in the day, Brandt had planned to visit a young man with AIDS. But she receives word that he died last night.

Such are the realities of AIDS in Africa, where the deadly epidemic is growing at a frightening rate. The World Health Organization estimates that one in 40 adults in sub-Saharan Africa is infected with HIV.

"I have little hope for this generation, but my hope lies in the children," Brandt said. The Lancaster, Pa., native spreads hope by teaching that abstaining from premarital and extramarital sex is not only moral but also the way to stay alive.

On the wall of the room at the Brethren in Christ-sponsored Mtshabezi Missions Hospital where Brandt counsels people who have been tested for AIDS is a poster that says, "Casual Sex Could Mean Formal Death."

Hospital statistics reflect the explosiveness of the AIDS epidemic. The number of patients testing positive for

the virus is doubling every year. Last year's HIV-positive total at Mtshabezi was 200, and the current pace would bring the 1993 number to almost twice that.

In nearby Bulawayo, one in five sexually active men is infected with HIV, and one in eight pregnant women has the virus.

To save the next generation, Brandt says AIDS education must start early. "People in their early 20s have AIDS, meaning they got it when they were 12, 13, 14," she said.

The spread of HIV among girls is made worse by "sugar daddies"—men who seek younger sex partners, fearing that older ones are infected. Frequently, the man doesn't know he already has the AIDS virus, and he gives it to the girl.

AIDS education is all the more important because HIV carriers can live in ignorance for years, not knowing that their promiscuity has put them and their partners under a death sentence.

Brandt, a registered nurse, extended her front-line battle against AIDS in May when she began her education ministry. Mennonite Central Committee is providing funds for her work.

She has spoken to youth, men's and women's groups, emphasizing the need to follow biblical principles. "People need to know why God created sex, that there are a lot of benefits to abstinence other than avoiding disease—the joy of being obedient to God, the strength that comes from self-discipline," she said.

Brandt also encourages a return to African traditions. Families used to arrange proper marriages, she said, but now men and women often live together without getting married and have less commitment to a single partner.

One reason for the marriage decline is the large fee that a man

must pay a bride's parents. Parents today often demand unreasonable amounts. A man who has to work five years to save enough money to marry is likely to be sexually active during that time.

Promiscuity among heterosexual men is causing AIDS to spread much more rapidly among heterosexuals in Africa than in North America. Miners and construction workers often are separated from their families for months and patronize the same HIV-infected prostitutes.

At a dam construction project near Gwanda, 23 of 25 workers who were tested were found to be carrying the AIDS virus.

Even with the epidemic's rapid spread, many still deny the problem or don't understand it. Many won't say the word "AIDS," instead calling it "that disease."

Some Africans don't believe AIDS is spread by a virus during sexual contact. Their traditions say that illnesses are caused by bad relationships between people. Witch doctors tell how to cure these problems.

It is difficult to get people to change their behavior. A group of men Brandt spoke to blamed AIDS on women and resisted her advice to be faithful to their wives. When she talked about the Bible's teaching that husbands should love their wives, they asked what that meant. She said love means being faithful.

She is trying to dispel people's fear of AIDS victims and recruit volunteers to care for those suffering in their homes. "We want to emphasize the spiritual care aspect of it," she said. "These people know they are dying and need to be confronted with eternity—do they know Christ?—so they can be at peace about their death."

Our best for God

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One of the problems was the workers' lunch hour; they wouldn't return for several hours if at all. So Ron supplied the food and hired someone to cook the noon meal. Now they ate a very substantial meal, had fellowship together, and saved lots of time. They said they never ate so well. The cost for hiring the cook and supplying the food was about \$135.00 for the entire time.

Ron and the men worked wonders, changing the entire house into a very comfortable structure. This could not be completed within the six-week time frame. They needed one more week, but Ron and Nancy had a restricted air ticket. In discussing what to do about this restriction, they saw the home telephone number of the Air France airline president. Air France was their carrier. They called this number, explained their dilemma and were told that they could stay another week and would not need to pay any extra—another miracle.

What impressed me as I heard this story was that Ron did not tell me of all the work he did (that seemed to be incidental), but of all the interaction he had with his workers and the Andrickses. Ron and Nancy had taken Bibles to give out. They gave one to Peter, their interpreter. The next day Peter had copied as much as he could and was prepared to return the Bible to Ron. Imagine Peter's surprise when Ron told him he could keep it.

The workers wrote notes for the Eberlys to read on their trip home. What impressed the people was how happy the Eberlys were—working so hard! The people with whom they worked were impressed with how much Ron and Nancy loved them. Ron and Nancy were reflecting the love that they had received from God.

When asked, "What do you want to say about your experiences in Malawi?" Ron answered, "Anyone can do it. You need a willing heart to share your skills!" ■

God at work in our world

Missionary journey

Phyllis Engle—Ndola, Zambia

Last December I had the privilege of visiting David Livingstone Teachers' College, where I had worked for more than nine years. Soon after my arrival, I was met by a tall, smiling young man. Chinga had come to Livingstone with his family in 1981, when his father joined our staff. He was in Grade 1 then, but now he had just finished writing his Grade 12 examinations. He immediately spoke of the contribution Good News Clubs had made to his spiritual life. He is

very committed to the Lord, witnesses to other boys, and feels the Lord is calling him into the ministry. I gave him a brochure introducing him to Theological College of Central Africa. Wouldn't it be a thrill to see him studying here? Pray for God's direction in his life.

Mike and Marvis Kanini are carrying on the Sunday school training and Good News Club work Lois Jean Sider and I left four years ago. Mike conducts the training course for college students, and Marvis supervises the students who teach the four Good News Clubs in the area. More than 200 children are reached in

these clubs. One is held at the home of Millen Ntambale; some of you may remember him as a Good News Club teacher long ago.

From Livingstone I traveled to Choma. At Macha Secondary School I visited the Jo Jo Sidambi family of seven girls and one boy. Jo Jo was my first assistant when the Good News Club program was begun in Livingstone in 1980. He is now acting head of Macha Day Secondary School. The children were so well behaved; they sang several choruses for me. Jo Jo indicated he is applying some of the teaching from Good News Club in

Brethren in Christ World Missions NEWS RELEASES...

Mexico

We have a desire and need to inform you about some new developments in our ministries in Mexico and some changes in our missionary personnel in Mexico City.

Missionaries periodically reflect on their ministry and God's will for their lives. Such was the case of our three missionary families in Mexico during two recent administrative visits. John and Ethel Sider indicated a desire to complete their present term but also expressed significant interest in India where they served from 1965 to 1972. When Randy and Valerie Buck were asked to evaluate their call and ministry in Mexico they indicated they would not be available to return to Mexico City after their present term but wanted to take specific graduate training in church planting. Scot and Jennifer White affirmed their call to Mexico City but spoke of a more recent call to church planting in Canada. They would only be available for one more term.

The Bucks were offered the opportunity to complete their present term in Bogota, Colombia, with the possibility of continuing service there. They have chosen, rather, to enroll in the Grand Canyon University of Los Angeles for graduate studies in church planting. The Whites were offered alternative service among an established group of churches in the Victoria/Monterrey areas of Mexico. They declined this, believing that they too need additional training and then wish to plant churches in major cities in Canada. The Siders have responded to the urgent need of a missionary presence in India and will be assigned there pending medical clearance for Ethel.

In this open letter to you, our constituency, we are pleased to announce new opportunities in Mexico. At our June Board for World Missions meeting it was voted to adopt a group of churches in northeast Mexico and develop them into a Brethren in Christ conference. There are churches and preaching points in 15 locations which include seven church buildings, eight pastors and 10 evangelists. The center of this ministry is Victoria, the

capital city of the state of Tamaulipas, and with some ministry in Monterrey, Mexico's third largest city.

These churches recently have been registered with the Mexican government as the Brethren in Christ Church of Mexico. This complies with recent governmental rulings requiring all churches to be officially registered with the government. All expatriate missionaries serving in Mexico must be members of a registered church and licensed by the same. These churches were organized some years ago under the leadership of LeRoy Eberly and his wife Judy. The Eberlys will be assigned to Mexico in late August to serve in pastoral and leadership training and to give supervision until the work is clearly established as a Brethren in Christ international conference. Additional missionaries are envisioned to assist in the area of Christian education, pastoral and leadership training, and evangelism. From these churches we hope will come the necessary leadership to reenter Mexico City and establish Brethren in Christ churches there.

We solicit your prayers as we shift our ministry from Mexico City to Victoria and Monterrey. Our primary focus will be in the development of leadership for the nurturing of these congregations and also to plant other churches. Parcels of land are already identified as future sites for church planting.

We are grateful to the Lord for the good ministry our team had in Mexico City and for those who came to know the Lord. These new converts are now integrated into churches near their homes and are finding areas of service and ministry for our Lord. They are the benefactors of the teaching ministry and life witness of Bucks, Siders, and Whites. The door is open for the Bucks and Whites to return for further service with Brethren in Christ World Missions and we know your prayers will accompany the Siders as they return to service in India. Times of transition are always difficult, so we urge you to offer your words of encouragement and pray for God's perfect leading in their lives and for the great harvest field of Mexico. ■

the training of his family. Pray that these children will follow the Lord and the family will be a good example.

At Nahumba Basic School in Choma, operated by the Brethren in Christ Church, seven of our David Livingstone graduates are teaching. One of them is also teaching Good News Clubs at Choma Secondary School, where her husband teaches. It was rewarding to see them serving the Lord and the church.

A place to begin

Doyle Book—Kitakyushu, Japan

Several times recently one of our first-year students had come to my office. She wanted to talk; she just wanted to "be there." She talked strangely, vaguely. But on the third visit she began to say that she heard voices and felt terrible tugs inside her. She felt compelled this way or

that. She indicated that this had been going on since junior high days and that because of it she had been in and out of mental institutions. Her parents had not permitted her to attend her high school graduation because they were afraid she might exhibit some bizarre behavior.

She indicated that she had also been visiting Ichihara Sensei, our chaplain, and several other Christian teachers. I began to realize that she was doing so because she was crying inwardly for relief. Ichihara Sensei had given some help, for she had told him that she had dabbled in various things related to the occult in her junior high days, and he declared to her that that was her problem. She brought her books and other items to him and experienced some relief through his prayers.

She had attended a Catholic high

school, and she told me that she had chosen our school precisely because it is Christian—she thought she might find some help here. As I see it, she knew at least enough about Jesus and the Bible that she wanted to be in a Christian atmosphere, feeling that help could be found only in such a place.

I spoke to her about the power of the name of Jesus and then prayed a prayer of deliverance for her, rebuking the evil spirits in the name of Jesus. There was an immediate change, and she declared, "I feel clean and free."

In fact, she continued, "I feel afraid now because I feel almost empty. What if something else comes back in?" (Wow! Does that sound like something you read in the Bible?) So I told her that Jesus would take care of her and that she should

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London

Curt Byers has accepted a call to be the associate pastor at the Grantham Brethren in Christ Church beginning September 1 and Marti will be starting a private practice in counseling in the Grantham area. The Brentwater church is seeking God's leading with regard to the possibility of calling a church planting pastor to reestablish Brentwater with a new name. The Forest Gate Brethren in Christ Church continues to grow and develop under the leadership of Elias Moyo. Jay Smith has, in the short time he has been in London, become a resource person for most of the other Islamic evangelism agencies in the U.K. and will continue to develop his ministry to Muslims.

Past and recent developments of the Brentwater congregation in London

When Curt and Marti Byers moved to North West London in 1987 they were surprised to find in their neighborhood a church with a track record of vigorous evangelism, commitment to world missions, and a multiethnic constituency reflecting its community. It was remarkably compatible doctrinally with the Brethren in Christ and led by a team of highly committed lay people. Curt and Marti worshiped at Brentwater while Curt was engaged in the Kensal Rise church planting project. When he was to be reassigned to another church planting project, Brentwater approached the Board for World Missions about becoming one of the founding congregations of the Brethren in Christ Church U.K. and about the possibility of Curt and Marti Byers becoming part of their leadership and pastoral team. The relationship between Brentwater, the Brethren in Christ, and Curt and Marti was finalized in late 1988.

The relationship with Brentwater has been a fruitful one. The church doubled its adult attendance, became even more ethnically heterogeneous, went from one to three housegroups, and, most importantly, began to see broken lives transformed. One

product of that relationship was a visualized family based evangelism program written by Curt Byers and illustrated by the English pastor of the Brentwater church, Norman Savine. Called the LIVE Programme, it was published in the U.K. and is in use by numerous churches there. A modified version of the program is due to be published by Evangel Publishing House in 1994.

Despite, or perhaps because of these evidences of God's work in and through Brentwater, the congregation entered into a period of debilitating church conflict in the late fall of 1991. This culminated in late 1993 in the resignation of a significant proportion of the church's membership. The impact of this was compounded in late 1992 and early 1993 by the decision of six of seven church leaders to resign from leadership and in two cases from church membership. These events transpired while Curt and Marti Byers were in the United States on furlough.

Those resigning included Brentwater's English pastor Norman Savine. He and others were responding not only to the extraordinary pressure of the previous year, but to the evident feelings of church members who remained, and to God's leading.

Curt and Marti returned to a church decimated by the conflict and to a church whose leadership had either resigned or would be doing so at the next congregational business meeting. The task of rebuilding the church would clearly be on the order of difficulty of a church planting, but with the added difficulty of extraordinary history of pain and conflict. After prayer and consultation Curt and Marti chose not to accept an assignment in which they would be sole and church planting leaders of an attempted restart of the Brentwater congregation.

With this news release we request your prayers for the Brentwater congregation, for Byerses in this time of transition and for remaining personnel in London.

Yours in the cause which matters most,
Jack McClane
Executive Director

just say, "Jesus, fill the empty place you have made clean." I gave her this brief guidance because she was hurrying off to another appointment.

The day following our conversation was to be the wedding of a close relative. Her parents were fearful of letting her attend. But she wanted to go, and I told her that Jesus would take care of her and that I would pray for her. When she returned to school after the weekend she was smiling. She had had a wonderful time all day at the wedding!

Now I am trying to arrange a time to lead her into receiving the Lord Jesus personally. I told her this was absolutely necessary, and I gave her a Four Spiritual Laws booklet to study in preparation for our next time. Your prayers are urgently

requested for Miss Inoue. Trusting that she will indeed receive Jesus as Savior, together with Ichihara Sensei I plan to lead her into confession and denouncing of every facet of the occult in which she has participated and destroying the items she has left with the chaplain.

Snake story

Jake Shenk—Mtshabezi Mission, Zimbabwe

On a recent visit to Mabonyane, a woman asked if we would come to her village and pray for her unbelieving husband, who was sick. As we sat in the village preparing for devotions and prayer, I had opened my Bible to the book of Isaiah. But the Spirit seemed to be urging

me to a different passage. So I opened to John 3 and read about Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness. Everyone seemed to be amazed. When we finished praying, the sick man was smiling. Pray for him.

After I had finished praying, the local pastor commented a number of times that I "knew nothing about the situation." I was not sure what he meant by this. He later told me that the people had called in a witchdoctor that very day, who brought his snake, which is the symbol of his authority to practice. To these people it was amazing to hear a message about a snake which brought salvation. The Lord works in many ways. ■

Grantham team wins denominational quiz finals

by R. Aubrey Hawton

Following several months of hotly-contested intra-conference quizzing over the book of Luke, the top nine teams from Allegheny, Atlantic, Central, Canadian, and Susquehanna conferences gathered together at the Carlisle Brethren in Christ Church for the denominational quiz finals from July 2-5, 1993.

The preliminary round-robin quizzing was set up in a double format, in which each team had the opportunity to quiz each other team twice. Some very exciting competition among a surprisingly even field of teams resulted. Following the round-robin portion of the tournament, every team had at least one win, and no team remained undefeated. The standings were as follows: Grantham, Elizabethtown, Wainfleet, Fairview, Mechanicsburg, Nappanee, Pequea, Paramount/Mt. Rock, Harrisburg.

Following round-robin competition, all nine teams moved into a double-elimination tournament, with Elizabethtown finishing a strong fourth, just behind Mechanicsburg. In the final quizzes, Grantham fought back after being relegated to the loser's bracket in an overtime quiz by the same Wainfleet team which they eventually beat in the finals. Congratulations to both Wainfleet, the runners-up, and Grantham, the 1993 Brethren in Christ Bible quiz champions.

Individual awards were presented to the top 10 quizzers. Gina Jenkins from

Fairview emerged as top quizzier in the tournament. Rounding out the top 10 were Jason Elliot (Wainfleet), Kelly Risser (Elizabethtown), Marcus Yeatts (Grantham), Susan Pierce (Nappanee), Kim Bert (Mechanicsburg), Megan Davis (Grantham), Brian Keepert (Pequea), Carrie Hoffman (Elizabethtown), and Kevin Barr (Mechanicsburg). While these quizzers were recognized for their top performances, all quizzers are to be commended for their dedication and commitment to studying God's Word.

Additional recognitions went to Brian Keepert from Pequea as the top first-year quizzier, and to Jason Elliott (Wainfleet) and Kelly Risser (Elizabethtown) as quizzers' and coaches' choice. These last two quizzers were chosen for the exemplary manner in which they comported themselves, for team leadership abilities, and for their quizzing abilities. We are certainly proud to have youth of this caliber in our churches.

Bible quizzing organizational meetings are now being planned for the regional conferences. The quiz material for the 1993-1994 quiz year will be 1 and 2 Corinthians. Interested teens or coaches should contact your regional conference quiz director or the Board for

Congregational Life for further information on this exciting and beneficial program.

World Bible Quiz Association Tournament

Following the Brethren in Christ Denominational Quiz Finals at Carlisle, four Brethren in Christ teams traveled to New Wilmington, Pa., for the World Bible Quiz Association (WBQA) Tournament on July 6-9, 1993.

Detroit YFC, Pittsburgh YFC and Mid-Atlantic Nazarene were the top three teams at these finals. A strong Grantham team finished in 5th position, Wainfleet finished in 15th place, Mechanicsburg in 18th, and Harrisburg, with a junior team, finished 20th in a field of 20 teams.

It should be noted that Harrisburg, with its junior team, was competing against experienced teams in the varsity division. When only competing against the junior teams in a mini-junior varsity final, Harrisburg emerged as the 1993 junior varsity champions! Our congratulations to the Harrisburg team.

Special recognition goes to Marcus Yeatts of Grantham, who finished 11th among the top quizzers, and to Jason Elliott, who finished 15th.

Next year's WBQA Finals will be held at Mid-America Nazarene University near Kansas City, Mo. It is hoped that several Brethren in Christ teams will be able to again take part in these exciting quizzing days.

R. Aubrey Hawton is the Brethren in Christ denominational quiz director.

**Next Year's Text:
1 and 2 Corinthians**

Church News

Allegheny Conference

The **Air Hill** church, Chambersburg, Pa., recently prepared 30 health kits for migrant workers. The Lamplighters group camped at Roxbury Aug. 27-29. • The **Chambersburg**, Pa., congregation hosted a scramble golf tourney Sept. 11. The church set a goal of \$15,000 on Rally Day, Sept. 26, for fellowship hall renovations. • The **Fairview Ave.** church, Waynesboro, Pa., has new signs, indoors and out. Friend Day was Sept. 12. • The **Five Forks** congregation, Waynesboro, received nine new members on Aug. 1. The annual church bazaar and bake sale was Sept. 18. • The seniors of the **Hollowell** church, Waynesboro, enjoyed a bus trip Sept. 28 to Lincoln Caverns, Swigart Museum, and Raystown Lake for a boat cruise.

The Gospel Grass Band (yes, that's their name) gave an outdoor concert Aug. 15 for the **Iron Springs** congregation, Fairfield, Pa. The congregation held an Aug. 25 party for VBS children and families at Ski Liberty pool. • On Aug. 29 Bishop Kipe spoke a challenge to the **New Guilford** congregation, Chambersburg, Pa., on outreach and assimilation. The church hosted

The Continentals on Aug. 14, 15. • The youth of the **Springhope** church, Schellsburg, Pa., planned a special weekend Aug. 13-15 with activities, camping, and Sunday school picnic, and vesper service. • September 26 was Rally Day at the **Van Lear** church, Williamsport, Md., with the Rich family from Virginia.

Atlantic Conference

The Wayne Wright family from Ontario presented a night of gospel singing on Aug. 15 for the **Conoy** congregation, Elizabethtown, Pa. • The **Cross Roads** church, Mount Joy, Pa., viewed "On the Edge" on Aug. 8. • The youth of the **Elizabethtown** church participated in the following summer projects: Habitat for Humanity in Philadelphia, Hurricane Andrew relief in Louisiana with MDS, and Sonlife Evangelism and Mission Project in Chicago. • The Eva Funk memorial fund is providing for mounting a cross above the baptistry of the **Fairland** church, Cleona, Pa., and for a computer system in the office. • Attendance exceeded 100 at the Aug. 9-13 VBS of the **Fellowship Chapel** congregation, Bronx, N.Y. The VBS featured a puppet ministry team from Emmaus, Pa.

The **Free Grace** church, Millersburg, Pa., hosts a sign language class on Monday nights. • The **Harrisburg**, Pa., church recently added administrative assistant to the duties of youth pastor George Payne. One of the fall Sunday school electives is "Living as God's People in an Urban World." • George and Flo Carlson, field representatives with Trans World Radio, spoke on "Breaking Through the Darkness" Aug. 15 at the **Hummelstown**, Pa., church. • Steve Musser was the speaker at the Sept. 1 Christian education kick-off dinner at the **Lancaster**, Pa., church. On Aug. 15 Myra Stauffer, and Jen and Jim Ernst told about their travels in Russia. • The junior high youth of the **Manheim**, Pa., church had a retreat Aug. 27-29 at Grace Brethren Retreat Center. Aug. 15 was Teacher Appreciation Sunday.

A farewell for Pastor Bob Hempy was Aug. 29 at the **Manor** church, Mountville, Pa. Douglas Kelchner was installed Sept. 12. • On Aug. 7 the **Montoursville**, Pa., church had a summer social with games, campfire, and Pastor Herrfort dressing up as the Apostle Peter teaching about Jesus' forgiveness. The movie "The Wait of the World" was viewed on Aug. 15. • The **Mt. Pleasant** church, Mount Joy, Pa., had a family life conference Sept. 19 with James Johnson, director of Shepherd's Touch Counseling Ministry. • The **New Covenant** congregation, Quakertown, Pa., began parenting classes this fall. • The Sept. 12 speaker at the **Palmyra**, Pa., church was Patty Rechivine, director of community relations at Bethesda Mission.

On Aug. 22 the **Pequea** church, Lancaster, Pa., heard testimonies by the summer VS workers, followed by the musical "Heart of the Lamb" by a group from the Elizabethtown church. • An Aug. 21 church board retreat at Kenbrook Camp focused on planning for growth of the **Refton**, Pa., congregation. The family ministries planned a deep sea fishing trip for Aug. 7. • The **Skyline View** church, Harrisburg, Pa., had an Aug. 8 "show and tell" craft and hobby evening. The youth had a missions trip Aug. 19-22 to



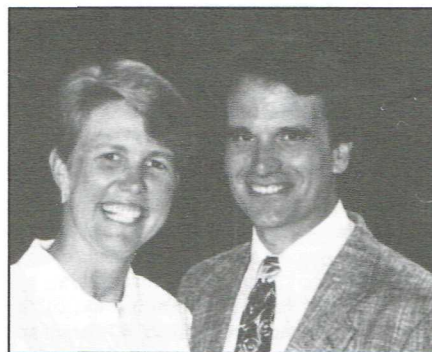
Greg Deardorff ordained

Greg Deardorff was ordained into Christian ministry on Aug. 15 at Falls View Brethren in Christ Church, Niagara Falls, Ont. Bishop R. Dale Shaw performed the rite of ordination and Dr. Harold Burgess of Asbury Theological Seminary preached the ordination sermon.

After 11 years of employment in the U.S. Postal Service, Greg began to sense a call to ministry while at the Fairview Avenue Church, Waynesboro, Pa. He returned to school and graduated in 1988 magna cum laude from Asbury College with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Bible. He then graduated with a Masters of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Ky., in May of 1991.

Greg has ministered at Falls View since August 1991. He serves as the Canadian representative on the General Conference

Board for Congregational Life. He is married to Sheila (Strite) and has two daughters.



Rod White ordained

Pastor Rod White, of the Fairview Avenue Brethren in Christ Church, Waynesboro, Pa., was ordained on Aug. 15. Bishop Frank Kipe officiated. General Secretary Don Shafer gave an ordination sermon. Pastor Kevin Ryan, of the Souderton Brethren in Christ congregation, gave the charge. Dotti Zimmerman, a member of the church board, sang a song she wrote in 1974, the same year Rod began his service in the church. The deacon couples of the congregation provided for further affirmation and celebration with a reception following.

Rod, his wife Gwen, and their four boys have been serving in Waynesboro for four years.

Information Needed

J. E. McDermond, Assistant Professor of New Testament at Messiah College, is currently generating a bibliography on Brethren in Christ interpretation of the Bible. Would you please contact him if you, as part of a formal post-graduate program, wrote a thesis (either masters or doctoral level) relating to this topic—such as hermeneutics or analysis of particular passages of Scripture.

Correspondence can be directed to Messiah College, Grantham, PA 17027, or telephone him at (717) 766-2511, ext. 3110.

Hunlock Creek. ● The **Souderton**, Pa., congregation had an adult retreat Aug. 17-19 at Penn-Del Retreat Center. ● The goal of the Aug. 9-27 Teleharvest of the **Speedwell Heights** church, Lititz, Pa., was 18,000 phone calls.

Canadian Conference

The **Boyle** congregation, St. Ann's, Ont., planned a hayride and barbecue for Aug. 6. ● The **Bridlewood** congregation, Agincourt, Ont., hosted their third annual community pig and corn roast on Sept. 11. ● The Women Who Care group of the **Delisle**, Sask., church had a garage sale and flea/farmer's market at the Sept. 11 mini-carnival held by the church. ● Sept. 12, missions Sunday at the **Falls View** church, Niagara Falls, Ont., featured speaker Henry Ginder, a 5:00 potluck meal, and a report on Mozambique. ● The Sept. 5 Sunday school fall round-up at the **Heise Hill** church, Gormley, Ont., featured puppeteers Byron and Marlene Morton. Pastor Anderson led a spiritual gifts seminar on Sept. 12.

The Aug. 16-20 VBS of the **Kindersley**, Sask., church was led by ventriloquist/chalk artist "Uncle Harold." ● The **Massey Place** church, Saskatoon, Sask., had a teacher training event on Sept. 8. ● Dan Steadman was installed Aug. 22 as pastor of the **North East Community** church, Calgary, Alb. Kid's Day, Sept. 12, featured Dave Wilson as Willy Nilly the Good News Clown. ● On Sept. 1 the Whites spoke to the **Oak Ridges**, Ont., congregation about missions in Mexico. Revival services with Gerhard du Toit were planned for Sept. 19-23. ● On Aug. 21 the youth group of the **Orchard Creek** church, St. Catharines, Ont., had a car wash, barbecue, and swimming. ● AWANA registration was Sept. 14 at the **Port Colborne**, Ont., church.

In August Pastor Main preached on the Beatitudes for the **Rosebank** congregation, Petersburg, Ont. ● The Primetimers of the **Sherkston**, Ont., church took a ride on the Maid of the Mist on Aug. 19. Leo and Miriam Bearss celebrated 50 years of marriage with a reception Sept. 5. ● The **Springvale**, Ont., church had an evening with Mexico missionaries Scot and Jennifer White on Aug. 11. VBS was Aug. 16-20. ● A farewell noon meal and program were Aug. 8 at the **Stayner**, Ont., church for Darrell and Anna Winger and family. ● In August the **Upper Oaks** congregation, Oakville, Ont., heard a three-part sermon series on "The 'S' Word," with the first entitled "Sin in a No Fault Society." ● On Aug.

15 the **Westheights** congregation, Kitchener, Ont., held a farewell service for Irma Pankratz, who will be serving three years at Choma Secondary School in Zambia.

Central Conference

On Aug. 20 the **Amherst** church, Massillon, Ohio, had a cookout to welcome the Lloyd Miller family from Timber Bay. The congregation heard a testimony of divine healing from George Hicks on Aug. 29. ● Glenn Robitaille was installed Sept. 12 as pastor of the **Ashland**, Ohio, congregation. ● The Aug. 4 MPF meeting at the **Beulah Chapel** church, Springfield, Ohio, featured jail chaplain Mary Perry. ● Nine persons were baptized in August into the **Carland-Zion** church, Owosso, Mich. A surprise 25th anniversary party for Pastor and Mrs. Stanton was Aug. 15. ● Daryl Climenhaga was installed Aug. 15 at the **Christian Union** church, Garrett, Ind. The church was host site for the John Brechbill family reunion on Aug. 14. ● The Aug. 8 24th anniversary celebration of the **Lakeview** church, Goodrich, Mich., was an outdoor, under-the-tent service. The congregation entered into flood relief through the local ministerium.

More than 30 women of the **Nappanee** (Ind.) congregation attended an Aug. 17 "getting-to-know-you" event for Jill Studebaker, wife of interim pastor Richard Studebaker. The Aug. 12 father-daughter banquet was well-attended. ● The **Mooretown** church, Sandusky, Mich., had a kick-off breakfast on Sept. 5 to start the new year. The young women studied the "Raising Positive Kids in a Negative World" video series on Wednesday nights. ● The **Northgate** fellowship, Tipp City, Ohio, planned an Aug. 29 picnic with food and games. ● Guest speaker Aug. 22 at the **Pleasant Hill**, Ohio, church was Paul Race. ● Dale Engle spoke in a Sept. 26 missions service at the **Sippo Valley** church, Massillon, Ohio. ● Rick Mailloux and Robert Rich were August guest speakers at the **Union Grove** church, New Paris, Ind.

Midwest Conference

Harold and Wanda Taylor were honored by their children for 50 years of marriage at a reception hosted Aug. 15 at the **Abilene**, Kan., church. ● The **Bethany** church, Thomas, Okla., has installed new carpet in anticipation of the November centennial celebration. ● Howard and Rebecca Garver spoke in an Aug. 29 missions services at the **Mound Park** church, Dallas Center, Iowa. ● On Aug. 29 the **Oklahoma City**, Okla., congregation had "church in the park" followed by a picnic and games. The September sermon series was on "The Power of Vision." ● Fifteen youth from the **Rosebank** congregation, Hope, Kan., attended youth camp Aug. 2-7 in Colorado. ● The Garvers spoke on Latin American missions Aug. 8 to the **Zion** congregation, Abilene, Kan.

Pacific Conference

Crystal Lewis appeared in concert recently at the **Alta Loma**, Calif., church on the third of "five fabulous family fun Fridays." Twenty young people rededicated themselves to or accepted the Lord. ● The **Chino**, Calif., church was host site for the 50th anniversary celebration on Aug. 7 of Lester and Ruth Mosebrook. The

youth hosted a Polynesian dinner on Aug. 28 for YOUthQuest expenses. ● A summer sermon series by Pastor Slattery at the **Moreno** church, Moreno Valley, Calif., was "Hey God!" addressing questions from the congregation. A family campout was Aug. 20-22. ● The **Ontario**, Calif., church had a twilight beach service and baptism on Aug. 29. ● The **Pacific Highway** church, Salem, Ore., VBS culminated in a cookout for students and parents on Aug. 13. ● Aug. 15 was "rent a kid" day at the **Upland**, Calif., church. A rummage sale was Sept. 25. ● The Sunday school of the **Walnut Valley** church, Walnut, Calif., is sponsoring an Ethiopian child at \$20 a month. The congregation had a service Sept. 26 offering the youth and singles an opportunity to dedicate themselves to a life set apart by sexual purity.

Southeast Conference

The **Bloomington Chapel** congregation, Columbia, Ky., recently sponsored a charter bus trip to Opryland Theme Park in Nashville. ● On Aug. 19 Matt and Donna Horton, general contractor and wife and members of the **Grace Community** church, Lawrenceville, Ga., were treated to a party at a local restaurant in appreciation for their sacrifices and hard work during the construction of the church building. ● On Aug. 7 the **Holden Park** congregation, Orlando, Fla., began monthly Saturday Bible study breakfasts on the life of David. ● Dave and Sharon Weaver spoke Aug. 4 to the **Millerfield's** congregation, Columbia, Ky., about work in Belize, Central America. The Cassidy Family was in concert on Aug. 15.

Susquehanna Conference

The **Big Valley** congregation, Belleville, Pa., and the **Susquehanna Valley** congregation, Selinsgrove, Pa., joined Aug. 22 for a Galilean service. Kevin Kelly was speaker. ● On Aug. 22 the **Carlisle**, Pa., church had a carry-in meal and service of sharing on "what I learned this summer." A group toured the Hebrew Tabernacle Reproduction and Landis Valley Museum on Aug. 24. ● The Sept. 1 ladies' fellowship meeting of the **Cedar Grove** church, Mifflintown, Pa., centered on the theme "did you take the garbage out?" from Phil. 3:1-11. ● On Sept. 5 the adults of the **Cedar Heights** congregation, Mill Hall, Pa., saw the video "After Sexual Abuse." The church hosted a family life conference Sept. 19 with Jere Brubaker. ● Sept. 12 was Friend Day at the **Cumberland Valley** church, Dillsburg, Pa., with guest teacher and potter Jon Mourglia. ● Three persons were baptized Aug. 8 into the **Dillsburg**, Pa., congregation. A farewell was slated Aug. 15 for John and Dorothy Fries, leaving to minister in Oregon.

The **Fairview** church, Reesers Summit, Pa., baptized two persons on Aug. 22. Pastor Lehman officiated Aug. 29 at the dedication of a local auto sales business. ● Aug. 22, youth night at the

Come and Celebrate

Knifley Chapel is celebrating 50 years of ministry of the congregation—35 years at the present location.

Sunday, Oct. 24, 1993

9:30 A.M. (CST)

2:00 P.M. (CST)

Call Eldon Byer: (502) 789-4409
for accommodations

Church news and "For the Record" items should be reported according to guidelines available from your pastor, or by requesting them from the **Visitor**, P.O. Box 166, Nappanee IN 46550.

Hanover, Pa., church, featured the film "A Second Glance." A class on "witnessing and winning" began on Sept. 1. ● The youth of the **Jemison Valley** church, Westfield, Pa., filled care boxes for Russian children to be sent there through Josh McDowell ministries. Rally Day, Sept. 26, featured a puppet ministry from Olean, N.Y. ● The **Marsh Creek** congregation, Howard, Pa., had an Aug. 11 service with Glenn and Beverly Halstead, missionaries to the Bahamas. ● The **Mechanicsburg**, Pa., church began evenings of volleyball and fellowship for women on Sept. 13.

Joyce Peterman was the Aug. 11 speaker at the **Messiah Village** church, Mechanicsburg, Pa. She has been teaching English in Qufu University in China. David Carlson preached Aug. 22. ● Six persons were baptized Aug. 1 at the **Morning Hour Chapel** church, East Berlin, Pa. The Ben Stoner family from Navajo Mission led the Aug. 15 services. ● The junior and senior high groups of the **Redland Valley** church, York Haven, Pa., had beach trips Aug. 17-19 and Aug. 20-23, respectively. ● The **Roseglen** church, Duncannon, Pa., had an open forum Aug. 26 to present a proposed process for personnel selection for church ministries. A "come as you work" service was Sept. 5.

For The Record

Births

Althouse: Denali Rae, Aug. 3; Steve and Danee (Newman) Althouse, New Covenant congregation, Pa.

Bates: Cassie Susannah, July 2; David and Lori (Lebeck) Bates, Stayner congregation, Ont.

Bowers: Jonathan Robert, Aug. 24; Carlton and Carolyn Bowers, Pleasant Hill congregation, Ohio.

Franck: Kaelynne Michelle, July 24; Ivan and Carol (Schneider) Franck, Stayner congregation, Ont.

Gerlach: Anissa Riley, July 29; Michael and Debra (Mylin) Gerlach, Pequea congregation, Pa.

Giles: Hannah Jean, July 28; Steve and Cheryl (Sider) Giles, Upper Oaks congregation, Ont.

Goering: Kenton Joe and Kevin Michael, Aug. 13; Russ and Kim (Huston) Goering, Zion congregation, Kan.

Hoff: Nolan Donner, Aug. 6; Darren and Cynndie Hoff, Walnut Valley congregation, Calif.

Kibler: Cherish JoAnna, Aug. 23; Wendell and Patricia (Raush) Kibler, Manor congregation, Pa.

Klink: Jessica Louise, Aug. 17; Paul and Kathy (Clark) Klink, Chambersburg congregation, Pa.

Kreider: John Luke, July 14; John and Susan Kreider, Lancaster congregation, Pa.

Lamey: Amanda Louise, July 29; Keith and Amber (Falls) Lamey, Cedar Heights congregation, Pa.

E.V. Timelines

100 Years Ago

Oct. 1, 1893 issue—In "A Plea for the Fire Relief," H.B. Musser of Mount Joy, Pa., writes: "About 20 years ago at a General Conference it was decided to establish a mutual aid, or fire relief, in the brotherhood, as some of the brethren were in other companies and this did not seem so satisfactory so that the attempt was made to aid each other. . . . I think it is the duty of the church to mutually aid each other in the losses sustained, and while sometimes we may have to pay when others lose, yet if we should be so unfortunate as to lose others would help us, and you may be sure that you pay no more than others do for assessments for the same kind of property, and you receive just as much accordingly as others do who meet with loss by fire."

75 Years Ago

Oct. 21, 1918 issue—In the editorial column: "The Spanish Influenza visitation continues to have a strong grip on the country. In consequence of the scourge the authorities have ruled that all gatherings in churches, or schools, and in places of amusement, saloons, etc., must be discontinued during the time that the epidemic lasts. It is proving fatal in a great many cases both in the soldier camps and in private communities. It seems to make alarmingly quick work when it reaches the pneumonia stage. It behooves all to first of all be right with God and then keep cool and live hygienically avoiding fatigue and excesses of all kinds, and trust in Him who is able to keep the plague from coming nigh thy dwelling."

50 Years Ago

Oct. 23, 1943 issue—Under the "Relief and Service Committee" column: "The M.C.C. has prepared 3,000 20-page booklets of Christmas songs for distribution among German prisoners in this country and Canada. Last year a small quantity was published and distributed in sheet form, and a number of letters were received from camp officials as well as from prisoners expressing appreciation for the gesture."

25 Years Ago

Oct. 7, 1968 issue—"The Board for Missions at its meeting at General Conference time gave consideration to participating in the support and operation of Montreal Lake Children's Home, Timber Bay, Sask., at the request of our Canadian Brethren. This Children's Home has been operated by the Northern Canada Evangelical Mission for the last 15 years or so and cares for approximately 50 primary children, largely of Indian families from Northern Saskatchewan. Many of these children have neither school opportunities where they live nor a Christian witness. . . . The Board hopes that there are people who, out of a deep concern for these Indian people, will actively participate in this project. . . ."

10 Years Ago

October 1983 issue—E. Morris Sider writes in "Of the making of many books," "I sometimes wonder, in moments of quiet pessimism, whether there is in fact anyone out there who reads books with a Brethren in Christ content, or worse yet, anyone who really cares. But those are only moments. My encouragement comes from knowing that we have among us the potential for producing a whole shelf full of books on Brethren in Christ subjects. How appropriate and helpful it would be to realize that potential."

Landis: Meagan Nicole, July 25; Tim and Bethanne Landis, Lancaster congregation, Pa.

Lofthouse: Emily Olivia Dawn, July 29; Donald and Bonnie (Wideman) Lofthouse, Heise Hill congregation, Ont.

Miller: Chad Alan, June 27; Mark and Angela (Zeis) Miller, Antrim congregation, Pa.

Painter: Craig Allen, Aug. 8; Jerry and Janet (Clippinger) Painter, Chambersburg congregation, Pa.

Ramsey: Leslie Abigail Joy, July 20; Scott and Lisa (Starner) Ramsey, Cumberland Valley congregation, Pa.

Ritchey: Sarah Nikkole, Aug. 2; Mark and Victoria (Pittman) Ritchey, New Guilford congregation, Pa.

Rudy: Nicholas Andrew, Aug. 8; Craig and Beth (Gregg) Rudy, Manor congregation, Pa.

Shultz: Shelby L., July 30; Jeff and Angie Schultz, Pleasant Hill congregation, Ohio.

Sneed: Preston Reed, Aug. 11; Craig and Brandy (Roberts) Sneed, Millerfields congregation, Ky.

Trostle: Jacqueline Elizabeth, Aug. 18; Chris and Dendra (Newhouse) Trostle, Cumberland Valley congregation, Pa.

Tyson: Mark David, Nov. 29, 1992; Kent and Darlene (Groff) Tyson, New Covenant congregation, Pa.

Wagner: Brandon Ray, June 26; Keith and Linda Wagner, Cumberland Valley congregation, Pa.

Wilt: Abigail Marie, June 29; Dan and Anita Wilt, Cumberland Valley congregation, Pa.

Winger: Abbie Elizabeth, July 3; Darrell and Anna (Sider) Winger, Stayner congregation, Ont.

Winger: Michelle Cristine, June 20; Tim and Sue Winger, Fordwich congregation, Ont.

Witman: Aaron Mark, July 29; Mark and Kimberly (Grove) Witman, Antrim congregation, Pa.

Zehnder: Hannah Elizabeth, Aug. 23; Kirk and Karen Zehnder, Walnut Valley congregation, Calif.

Zimmerman: Brent Richard, Aug. 5; James and Kathy (Johnson) Zimmerman, New Guilford congregation, Pa.

Money Matters

The Brethren in Christ team: Cooperative Ministries

by Harold D. Chubb

As we look at the Brethren in Christ Church, we see it is a team. There are different areas of involvement—general, regional and congregational. Together we need to be a team working in unity at our mission and ministry for the Lord and the church. "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus" (Rom. 15:5).

After much evaluation, the 1982 General Conference of the Brethren in Christ Church decided to operate cooperatively in funding its ministries and chose to call it Cooperative Ministries and Mission, starting July 1, 1984. This was the beginning of the team approach to funding and extension of our ministry. A question was asked then and needs to be asked today. How can we be most effective with the mission and ministry resources God has given the Brethren in Christ Church? That includes not only money, but people and other gifts.

Some of the concerns for new direction were: (1) It would take a team effort to extend the Brethren in Christ Church into new areas of North America. (2) Too many min-

istries were requesting pastors give up their pulpits for promotion. (3) There was discontent with the method of funding leadership of the brotherhood by assessment to each congregation. Out of these concerns Cooperative Ministries and Mission was born.

I remember traveling in 1983 to regional conferences and holding area meetings for the purpose of presenting the *ideal plan* of funding ministry—having congregations and individuals giving to Cooperative Ministries and Mission and having these gifts distributed according to a percent of approved budgets. But as an unknown writer said: "The best made plans of mice and men may need adjustment in the end." Now that almost 10 years of operating under the Cooperative Ministries (as now known) is completed, we have learned that the plan needed adjustments along the way to accommodate the interests of the donors, the ministries, the congregations, and others. We continue today to evaluate this process to assure that the best interest of the team is at heart.

Being a part of a team means remembering important elements. First, *you are a member*; by being a member you need to participate in general activities, regional activities, local activities, some that are combi-

Weddings

Bishop - Weyman: Joy Beth, daughter of John and Ruth Weyman, Upper Strasburg, Pa., and Stephen Lane Bishop, Fayetteville, Pa., Aug. 14, at Air Hill Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Gregg Garman and Rev. John Weyman officiating.

Plante - Deihl: Elaine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Deihl, Corunna, Ind., and Don, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Plante, Colorado Springs, Colo., Aug. 21, at Auburn Missionary Church with Rev. Richard Mailloux officiating.

Powell - Downs: Lisa Annette, daughter of James P. and Mary R. Culver Downs, Bardstown, Ky., and Ronald Lee, son of the late Raymond and Emily McCorkle, Aug. 7, at Columbia State Park with Rev. Timothy Lewis officiating.

Steckley - Hobbs: Lauren Elizabeth, daughter of Elaine Hobbs and Larry Hobbs, and Scott Jeffrey, son of Lloyd and Ruth Steckley, Richmond Hill, Ont., June 20, at Carrying Place Golf and Country Club with Rev. Isaac Flagg officiating.

Steffen - Wolgemuth: Heidi, daughter of Lester and Madge Wolgemuth, Mount Joy, Pa., and Scott, son of Diane Kretzing, Elizabethtown, Pa., and the late Russell Steffen, Aug. 14, at Congregational Bible Church with Rev. Jeffrey Landis officiating.

Wenger - Jones: Julie, daughter of James and Delena Houser, Solomon, Kan., and Bob Wenger, son of Virgil and Carol Wenger, Abilene, Kan., July 10, at Zion Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Ron Howell officiating.

Obituaries

Althouse: Thomas John Althouse, born Mar. 3, 1967, son of Wayne and Janice Althouse, died July 5. Surviving are two sisters, Lori Cassel and Kristin Althouse; and a brother, Steve. He was a member of the New Covenant congregation, Pa. The funeral was held at the Souderton Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Jeffrey Hollenbach and Rev. Joe Hyatt officiating. Interment was in the Silverdale church cemetery.

Amsbaugh: Clair Amsbaugh, born May 25, 1908, in York Co., Pa., died Aug. 1. Preceding him in death was his wife, Margaret Amsbaugh. Surviving are 4 sons, Clair Jr., John, George, and Gary; 4 daughters, Henrietta Slaseman, Elizabeth Sanger, Patricia Harbold, and Kathryn Millard; a stepson, Robert Haas; a stepdaughter,

nations thereof. Second, *you have opportunities to share financially*; the Scripture says give according to your ability. Third, *priority determines the motivation you will put into the team*. Fourth, *attitude toward the team*; a good team member roots for and supports the other members. Fifth, *a goal is achieved by everyone giving his or her utmost to the team*. Victory is not always winning. It is sometimes accomplishment and/or satisfaction.

The 1993 fiscal year will complete a decade of Cooperative Ministries funding. Many adjustments have been made along the way such as the title change to Cooperative Ministries. I'm sure you can recall some changes that were helpful from your position on the team. The following are a few statistics showing the results of our team efforts:

This year, 1993, local congregational financial commitments to Cooperative Ministries range from minimal contributions to over \$225,000. The percentage of congregational total budgets committed to Cooperative Ministries ranges from a small percentage up to 40 percent, with many congregations sharing over 20 percent of their gifts to ministry beyond their doors.

These figures tell me that the members of the Brethren in Christ team need to be commended for their faithful support. Being obedient to God's word "the righteous give without sparing" (Prov. 21:26). As we faithfully give, God will bless both the gift and the giver.

It is evident that the church desires to minister in a team efforts. Therefore, we need to continue to understand the vision of the brotherhood

Cooperative Ministries

Receipts—Year to Date
January 1 - August 31, 1993

	1993	1992
Proportionate	<u>1,392,127</u>	<u>1,328,657</u>
Congregational	1,368,747	1,260,105
Individual	23,380	68,552
Designated and Direct Giving	<u>339,953</u>	<u>357,927</u>
Congregational	206,597	239,036
Individual	133,356	118,891
Total to Date	<u>1,732,080</u>	<u>1,686,584</u>
Total Budget	<u>4,210,537</u>	<u>4,142,279</u>
Received to Date	41.13%	40.7%

and be prepared to fund these ministries together. Let us continue to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit for direction for ministry and funding, whether it be at home or in other countries. Your prayers are requested for the funds to fulfill our commitments to ministries.

Financial Support and Membership

Year	General and Regional Giving	Total Denominational Giving	Denominational Membership
1982	\$2,389,591	\$10,545,819	16,901
1984	3,147,023	12,879,850	17,821
1986	3,568,009	15,859,381	18,679
1988	3,412,327	16,714,994	19,426
1990	3,470,036	19,694,914	20,346
1992	3,404,617	21,427,419	20,819
<i>% increase for the period</i>			
	42.5%	103.2%	23.2%

Harold D. Chubb is Director of Finance for the Brethren in Christ Church.

Emma Cornman; 38 grandchildren; 58 great-grandchildren; and 9 great-great-grandchildren. He had been a member of the Fairview congregation, New Cumberland, Pa., for over 20 years. The funeral was held at the church with Rev. Simon Lehman Jr. officiating. Interment was in Cross Roads Cemetery.

Bair: Florence E. Bair, born Mar. 9, 1905, daughter of Samuel and Mittie Burd Ketner, died Aug. 6. Preceding her in death was a son, John W. Surviving are 2 sons, Paul M. and Dale E.; 2 daughters, Edna Wagner and Lois Poorman; 19 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; 8 great-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Annie Simcox. She was a graduate of Flemington High School, and a member of the Cedar Heights congregation, Pa., where she had taught Sunday school. Rev. John L. Bundy officiated at the funeral service. Interment was in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Burkholder: Harry F. Burkholder, born Feb. 17, 1918, son of Samuel J. and Maria Frey Burkholder, died Aug. 3. Preceding him in death were his wife, Margaret (Jones); a brother; and a sister. Surviving are his wife, Helen (McElwee Booz); two sons, H. Leroy and Harold E.; a daughter, Gloria M. Scheaffer; a stepson, Donald Booz Jr.; a stepdaughter, Barbara Foster; two brothers, Edgar F. and Paul H.; a sister, Florence Clough; four grandchildren; and four stepgrandchildren. Harry was a member of the Air Hill congregation, Pa., where the funeral was held with Rev. William Walters, Rev. Roger Witter, Rev. Gerald Wingert, and Rev. Alan Miller officiating. Interment was in the Air Hill cemetery.

Ebersole: Clifford Johnston Rhodes Ebersole, born July 14, 1905, son of Aaron and Nellie Johnston Ebersole, died Aug. 18. Preceding him in death were his wife, Dora; his brother, Stanley; his son, Donald; and a grandson, Kevin. Surviving are three grandchildren, Darrell Ebersole, Jeanette Savage, and Luane Cooke; and eight great-grandchildren. He was a member of the Bertie congregation, Ont., where the funeral was held with Rev. Don Middlemiss, Rev. Mark Thornton, and Rev. Ross Nigh officiating. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Fretz: Anna Mae Fretz, born Feb. 6, 1933, daughter of Jesse R. and Lydia M. Winger Sider, died May 17. Surviving are her father and stepmother (Abigail Winger Sider); her husband, Lamar; a son, Terry; a daughter, Heather Ioannoni; two grandchildren; and a sister, Ruth Schiedel. Anna Mae and her sister Ruth sang for many years on the "Call to Worship" program. She and Lamar served for nine years as missionaries in Zambia. She initiated a Christian Service Endowment Fund at the Falls View Brethren in Christ Church where she was a member. The funeral was held at the Bertie church, Ont., with Rev. Ross Nigh, and Rev. Greg Dear-dorff officiating. Interment was in the Bertie cemetery with Rev. Wayne Schiedel officiating at the graveside service.

Frey: Isaiah K. Frey, born July 12, 1908, died Aug. 12. Surviving are his wife, Florence Frey; four sons, John, Paul, Harold, and Clair; and a daughter, Bonnie Dickinson. A memorial service was held at the Holden Park church, Fla.,

where he was a member, with Rev. Ethan Gramm officiating.

Garver: Alice C. Ritzman Garver, born Apr. 17, 1913, in Roswell, South Dakota, died July 31. Preceding her in death were two sisters, Wilma and Alta; and two stepbrothers, Kenneth and Arnold Mast. Surviving are her husband, Dwight Garver; 6 sons, Leland, Donald, Dennis, Ronald, Richard, and Roger; 10 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; a sister, Bethel Houtz; and a stepsister, Dorothy Mast. Alice attended the Abilene, Kan., church where she taught Sunday school, and was involved with Good News Clubs for 23 years. The funeral was held at the church with Rev. Henry Landis officiating. Interment was in Abilene Cemetery.

Gish: Erma Mae Gish, born June 29, 1910, daughter of Amos and Stella Hershey Mummau, died July 23. Preceding her in death was a brother, Hershey Mummau. Surviving are her husband, J. Edgar Gish; a son, J. Edgar Gish Jr.; 4 daughters, Arlene Wagner, Kathryn Light, Mildred Imboden, and Erma Jean Bert; 15 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; and 2 brothers, Amos and Owen Mummau. She was a 1928 graduate of Maytown High School, a member of the Lebanon Valley Brethren Home Prayer Chain, a charter member of the Kenbrook Bible Camp and a member of its auxiliary. She was a member of the Fairland Brethren in Christ Church, Pa., where she participated in the prayer chain, as a Sunday school teacher, and president of the sewing circle. The funeral was held at the

Roxbury Holiness Camp 1993

by Bishop John B. Hawbaker,
camp meeting director

"There's an upbeat expectancy about the atmosphere here," said one of our speakers, and many people made similar observations.

Under the theme, "Set Free Through the Spirit," the 1993 camp meeting was the occasion of inspiring preaching, many people experiencing God's grace and power in a new way, attendances higher than in other recent years, and (once again) some record-setting offerings.

The attendance in and around the main tabernacle on Sunday afternoon, August 8, was 1,325. Pleasant weather and moderate-to-cool temperatures added to the comfort of the camp attenders.

Co-evangelists were Dr. H. E. Schmul from Salem, Ohio, and Rev. Doug Sider, from Saskatoon, Sask., Canada. Rev. Sider's sermon "Pillars for Parenting" was especially challenging; many individuals and couples made new covenants to follow God's priorities for marriage and parenting.

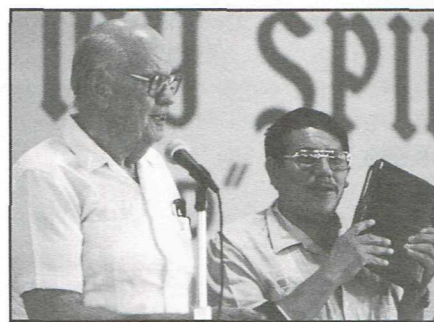
Other guest speakers included Pastor Craig Sider, of the Upper Oaks Community Brethren in Christ Church in Oakville, Ont., Canada; Dr. Gary Walsh, newly commissioned as Bishop of the Free Methodist Church in Canada; and Dr. Charles Killian, Professor of Preaching and Drama Director at Asbury Theological Semi-

nary in Wilmore, Ky. Dr. Killian gave a dramatic presentation of H. C. Morrison, the founder of Asbury Seminary, including portions of some of Morrison's vivid sermons.

Our music and worship leader was Dr. Bruce Gerlach from Louisville, Ky. (previously from the Manor Church). He led worship periods on various themes, including Scriptures, music commentary, hymns, gospel songs and choruses. Accompanists were organist Allen Mowery, from the Mt. Rock Church, and pianist Paul Thorlaksen from Louisville, Ky.

Rev. Fred Geib directed the prayer ministries, working with a team of prayer leaders.

Cordell and Beverly Replogle directed a children's camp, using the theme "Bees-a-Buzzing." The offering project was scholarships for students at Sikalongo Bible Institute in Zambia. The goal was \$1,500 but this was surpassed



Eugene Madiera translates for José León Herrerra during a missions day service

by Wednesday. The total received was \$2,399, with the boys bringing in \$84 more than the girls.

Layne Lebo and Dave Erisman directed the teen camp, with the theme "Training for What Matters Most." Mick Veach, from Kingdom Building Ministries, gave solid Bible teaching and a strong call to total commitment to Christ. On Missions Day, 14 youth responded that they believe God is calling them to serve him in missions.

Guest musicians included the Ministers of Music (quartet), Alice Lauver and Lamar Dourte, the Morely Family Singers and Handbell Choir, a Salvation Army Youth Band and Choir, and 4 Praise (two couples from the Chambersburg Church).

The Missions Day offering, for Brethren in Christ World Missions and the Board for Evangelism and Church Planting, was \$130,644, which is a new record in missions giving at Roxbury.

In the camp's operational fund the offerings came to a total of \$51,593 (toward a need of \$52,500). In the capital and maintenance fund the goal was \$45,000, and the actual received in donations and faith commitments was \$57,407.

The 1994 camp meeting is scheduled for August 5-14. Evangelists will be Tim Elmore, of Kingdom Building Ministries, and Dr. Arthur Climenhaga. Guest speaker for the second weekend will be Stephen Manley, from the Church of the Nazarene. Song leader will be Emerson Frey.

"The Information Highway"

Networking, connectivity, information management, E-mail, bulletin boards, uploading... some of the many buzzwords of the electronic '90s. Our society continues to find new, creative ways to interact, and at a faster and faster pace.

How does one find one's way on the coming "information superhighway"? By being connected in the right way at the right time... by interfacing with a common purpose and goal.

That's exactly what *YOUthQuest '93, Stepping Beyond* is all about—youth getting connected to the most amazing event of the past three years! *YOUthQuest '93,*

Stepping Beyond is going to link hundreds of youth together this Christmas in the Pocono Mountains—to be touched directly by God's Word through ministry, music and Christian interaction.

Here are the dynamics of this key event for your youth and youth leaders: Over 700 will be gathering at the world class Tamiment Resort, Tamiment, Pennsylvania, from Dec. 27-30, 1993. Tim Elmore, of Kingdom Building Ministries, is the featured speaker. David Meece will be the performing artist. Indoor/outdoor sports, swimming, games, along with talent shows, a musical, a "Western" theme

dinner, are only a few of the activities featured, as are seminars, plenary sessions, contact groups, and special events. There isn't any other event like it.

Cost for this once in a lifetime event is \$190 per person (\$215 Canada), if registered by November 15, 1993. After that date, cost is \$200 (\$225 Canada); these costs include lodging, meals, taxes, gratuity. Long distance travelers will have a subsidy available. Registration is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Further information and registration forms have been sent to your local pastors and youth leaders. For each church, the challenge is to begin planning now to take part in, and advantage of, this pivotal event in the lives of your youth. For youth, and the churches they connect to, it's time to link up, and look forward to *YOUthQuest '93, Stepping Beyond*. ■

church with Rev. Vernon Bosserman officiating. Interment was in Grandview Memorial Park.

Kauffman: Ralph S. Kauffman, born Oct. 20, 1901, son of Foster and Margaret Singer Kauffman, died Aug. 6. Preceding him in death was a son, James Ronald. Surviving are his wife, Ruth (Kepler); a daughter, Shirley Ritzman; a sister, Freida Mummah; three grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren. He attended the Cedar Grove church, Pa. The funeral was held at the Guss Funeral Home with Rev. Ken Letner officiating. Interment was in Thompsonstown Lutheran Cemetery.

Lehman: Robert Samuel Lehman Sr., born Jan. 26, 1923, son of Simon A. and Edith Wenger Lehman, died July 26. Surviving are his wife, Edith M.; 2 sons, Robert S. Jr. and Steven A.; 6 daughters, Lois Nester, Jean Heise, Fern Steckbeck, Ruth Rosado, Mary Simmons, and Beth Roush; 22 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; 3 brothers, Simon A. Jr.; Charles L.; and Ronald L.; and 2 sisters, Gladys I. Aker and Betty L. Swartz. Robert was a farmer in Cumberland Co., Pa. He was a faithful, willing, and cheerful supporter of the Mechanicsburg church where he was a member. The funeral was held at the church with Rev. Steven A. Lehman, Rev. Simon A. Lehman, and Rev. David E. Barnett officiating. Interment was in Mechanicsburg Cemetery.

Martz: Donald Wayne Martz, born Oct. 20, 1940, son of Burel and Myrtle Martz, died July 19. Preceding him in death were two brothers, Roy and Kenneth. Surviving are his wife, Angela; four daughters, LeeAnn Sommers, Patricia, Jennifer, and Heather; and a son, Aaron. He was a self-employed mechanic and attended the Napanee Brethren in Christ Church. The funeral was held at Thompson-Yoder Funeral Home with Rev. Richard Mailloux officiating. Interment was in Stoney Point Cemetery.

Metheny: Pauline H. Metheny, 68, daughter of Harry E. and Mabel Gible Derr, died July 24. Preceding her in death was her husband, Jackson

D. Metheny. Surviving are a son, Douglas J.; a daughter, Cynthia A. Stum; two grandchildren; two sisters, Grace Espenshade and Doris Kreider; two brothers, Harry H. Derr and Wilbert H. Derr. She was employed by the Colonial Shoe Co., Salunga, until retirement in 1983. Pauline was a member of the Elizabethtown congregation, Pa. The funeral was held at the Sheetz Funeral Home with Rev. David L. Hall and Rev. Lucille Ulery officiating. Interment was in West Greentree Church of the Brethren Cemetery.

Sollenberger: Ida M. Sollenberger, born June 25, 1911, daughter of Aaron W. and Leah E. Leshner Oberholser, died Aug. 15. Surviving are her husband, John E. Sollenberger; a brother, Christian L. Oberholser; a sister, Velva E. Zook; and several nieces and nephews. Ida had been a youth worker at the New Guilford church, a member and secretary of Messiah College Auxiliary and Child Evangelism; a member of Gideon Auxiliary, Messiah Village Auxiliary, Gospel Tide Auxiliary, Highland Art League of Sebring, Fla., and the Chambersburg Art Association. She was a member of the New Guilford Church where the funeral was held with Rev. Robert Verno and Rev. Robert Lehman officiating. Interment was in the Air Hill cemetery.

Starr: Leda A. Starr, born July 30, 1914, daughter of Eugene V. and Estelle Hesse Newell, died Aug. 21. Preceding her in death was her husband, Scott W. Starr. Surviving are 6 daughters, Ida May Gochenaure, Alta Holden, Patsy Starr, Mary Werner, Betty Jo Sipe, and Joyce Mellott; a son, David W.; 22 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. Leda was a 1931 graduate of Chambersburg High School and a member of the New Guilford congregation, Pa. The funeral was held at the church with Rev. Robert Verno officiating. Interment was in Parklawn Memorial Gardens.

Stenger: Mary E. Stenger, born Aug. 5, 1909, daughter of William and Pearl Deck Swailes, died July 25. Preceding her in death was her husband, John F. Stenger. Surviving are a daughter, Anita M. McIlveen; two brothers,

William and John Swailes; and a sister, Florence House. Mary had been a foster mother of 16 children for over 15 years for the Franklin Co. Children's Agency. She was president of the Ladies Auxiliary of World War I for eight years. She was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, but attended the Chambersburg, Pa., church. The funeral was held at Park-Geisel Funeral Home with Rev. Kevin Witter officiating. Interment was in Union Cemetery.

Stoner: Grace E. Stoner, born Dec. 17, 1909, daughter of Henry K. and Katie R. Kreider, died July 23. Preceding her in death was her husband, Joseph A. Stoner; and two brothers, Ethan A. Kreider and John K. Kreider. Surviving are a daughter, Mary Ann Engle; 8 sons, Ronald K., Samuel K., John K., Robert K., Jesse K., Marlin K., Benjamin K., and Gerald K.; 22 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren. She was a member of the Morning Hour Chapel and Messiah Village congregations. A memorial service was held at Morning Hour Chapel with Rev. Raymond Mummert and Rev. J. Robert Lehman officiating. A graveside service was led by Rev. Martha Lady. Interment was in Grantham Memorial Park. ■

Telephone Number for General Conference Convention Director

(as promised in the Sept. Visitor)

(717) 766-0403

Please direct all telephone calls for the General Conference Convention Director to this phone number. (An answering machine will take your message if he is not at home.)

Board of Administration cautious about change, concerned with process

by R. Donald Shafer

At the recent meetings of the Board of Administration (BOA), September 23-25, 1993, there was due deliberation on all matters of the agenda.

The General Church Leaders had been asked to bring revised work on the proposals to *Shape The Future*—a document the BOA has been working on since the spring of 1993, which refines general church structures. They brought back their best thinking on planning ahead for the next six years, 1994-2000, rather than a two-year plan followed by a six-year proposal. It included some change in regional boundaries, titles of general church bishops, regional bishops, and some other modifications to reduce administration for general and regional conference duties in order to place more

programming and administration with the congregation.

A leadership trend across North America is to reduce the amount of programming and administration at general and regional levels.

The Board of Administration was prepared to reduce some structural involvement such as moving from four General Church Leaders to two, namely a Moderator and General Secretary, with an Executive Director for Congregational Development. The BOA also agreed to ask the eight regional conferences to share five full-time bishops rather than eight full- and part-time bishops. Thus six regional conferences would be asked to share bishops. This is consistent with our objective to be good stewards of our resources.

The Board of Administration acted to keep present titles of General Church Leaders and Regional Bishops and not to change general boards' structures until 1996. It was decided to change the name of the Board of Administration to General Conference Board, to indicate its role as a policy-setting group, and to delegate administrative detail to a Leadership Council. The Board of Administration was very careful about process that involved personnel issues. The issue of accountability of Executive Directors with both General Church Leaders and chairpersons of general boards has yet to be resolved. It was agreed to have a Leadership Council which includes the General Church Leaders, the Regional Bishops, and the Executive Directors of general boards.

The details of these 1994 General Conference issues will be communicated by Regional Bishops and the General Church Leaders. Meetings are scheduled in each of the eight regional conferences this fall and winter as well as the annual spring regional conference meetings in March and April of 1994.

In other work, the BOA reviewed the work of the General Church Leaders and affirmed their evaluations. Serious consideration was given to reports from the regional conferences and the general boards. A task force completed its work on the Brotherhood Health Plan for the United States that will result in reduced premiums.

It was noted that congregations have continued to be generous in their total giving. But there is a marked difference in distribution. Giving beyond the congregation continues to decline. [See "Money Matters," page 22-23]. Statistics indicate the increase in funding is for buildings, maintenance, and additional multiple staff at local churches. This should be reviewed in light of cultural trends.

Some of the items that will come to the 1994 General Conference are the report of the Historical Practices Committee, the covenants with Messiah College and Paxton Ministries, the results of the congregational vote on the Constitution (it passed by more than a two-thirds vote), and a peace statement.

The Board of Administration affirms our priorities of evangelism and discipleship for the next biennium as we continue to assist our churches to focus on a biblical agenda.

R. Donald Shafer is General Secretary of the Brethren in Christ Church.

YOUTHQuest '93:

Stepping Beyond

Dec. 27-30, 1993

**Tamiment Resort
and Conference
Center
Tamiment, Pa.**



Featured Speaker: Tim Elmore, Kingdom Building Ministries
Concert by David Meece

If registered by Nov. 15, 1993

Cost: \$190 per person (\$215 Canadian)

Includes lodging, meals, tax, and gratuity

Cost after Nov. 15: \$200 (\$225 Canadian)

Pastors and youth leaders have received registration information

This denominational event is sponsored by the General Conference Board for Congregational Life

MESSIAH COLLEGE NEWS

The new school year kicks off

Fall Welcome Weekend 1993 was a "Prime Time" to start the year off right. Beginning with a special welcome for international students on Monday, August 23, the week before school began also included a two-day session for new students who weren't able to attend summer orientation.

In between moving into their rooms and registering for classes, first-year students were treated to an ice cream social and organized into support groups. New Student Support Group leader Melissa Hershey ('95) led her charges on a scavenger hunt to get them acquainted with each other and the campus. A candlelight worship service on Friday evening gave students and their parents the opportunity to dedicate the coming year to God.

As this issue of the *Evangelical Visitor* went to press, the college's unofficial total enrollment stands at just over 2,300, a slight increase from the 1992-1993 academic year. Recruitment efforts resulted in just over 600 freshmen enrolling; 100 transfers students enrolled as well. The class of 1997 includes 34 valedictorians, 2 National Merit Scholar finalists, and 4 National Merit Scholar semi-finalists.

The weekend's special activities concluded with Convocation Chapel on Tuesday morning when the academic year officially began. Both new and returning students who had performed well academically as measured by their class standing, grade point average, and/or achievement test scores were publicly honored. Also, the names of Merit Scholars were announced. Chosen by the faculty for scholarship, leadership, and school loyalty, this year's Merit Scholars are senior Alicia Cocks, junior Amy Kenyon, and sophomore Angela Heise, a Brethren in Christ student. Students leaders were also recognized in the installation of MCSA officers.

Dr. Jay Barnes, vice president of student development, addressed the college community on "Your Mind Matters to God." Since he recently sent his eldest child off to college this year for the first time, Dr. Barnes let the community listen in on a "letter" to his daughter. He



Part of the first weekend activities—obtaining a good understanding of the campus.

reminded her and the audience that while our minds matter to God, knowledge alone is not enough. Right thinking must lead to right acting. And he noted that, according to Romans 12, both thinking and acting are kinds of worship.

Messiah College included in guide to higher education

Messiah College, along with nine other Christian College Coalition schools, are among the 359 top colleges and universities around the country selected for

inclusion in the recently released *Peterson's Competitive Colleges 1993-1994*. The other CCC schools included are Trinity College (Conn.), Wheaton College (Ill.), Goshen College (Ind.), Taylor University (Ind.), Simpson College (Iowa), Calvin College (Mich.), Bethel College (Minn.), Houghton College (N.Y.), and LeTourneau University (Tx.). There are more than 3,000 accredited degree-granting higher education institutions in this country.

Listing Messiah for the eighth consecutive year, *Peterson's Competitive*

How to apply to Messiah

Students who wish to apply for admission to Messiah College for the fall of 1994 should apply now. Here are four steps to follow:

1. Write or call the Admissions Office, Messiah College, Grantham PA 17027, (717) 691-6000, and request an application and current catalog.
2. Complete and submit the Messiah College application.
3. Ask your guidance counselor to send us an official transcript of your courses, grades, and standardized scores. We will accept either Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or American College Testing.
4. Ask your pastor or church youth director and a professional person who knows you well to complete a recommendation and send it to us. Recommendation forms are included in the application booklet.

Messiah College operates a "rolling admissions" policy, which means that the Admissions Committee reviews and acts upon an application as soon as the application and supporting materials (recommendations and academic records) are received.

Colleges is the only college guide that uses the quality of the student body as the defining factor to identify the 350-plus institutions that consistently attract and accept the brightest students. In a formula developed 12 years ago and now widely recognized, the book uses data on the quality of the entering class, rather than reputation or other subjective criteria, as the basis for inclusion, resulting in an unusually valuable reference source for the academically talented student. "It has long been recognized that most students are more influenced by each other than by any other aspect of their college experience," notes Yvonne Freccero, vice president for higher education services at Peterson's.

Competitive Colleges 1993-1994 includes a detailed, full-page profile for each college, providing up-to-date, easy-to-compare information of special interest to competitive students, including:

- National Merit Scholarships in the entering class
- Application/acceptance rates

- Honors programs
- Most popular majors
- Graduate school attendance rates
- Fulbright, Marshall, and Rhodes Scholars.

Introductory articles by Richard H. Shaw, Jr., dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid at Yale University, and Don Betterton, director of financial aid at Princeton University, as well as 12 topical directories all help students plan properly in the early stages of the admissions process. A separate section is devoted to competitive schools in the visual and performing arts.

Peterson's Competitive Colleges 1993-94 is available in bookstores nationwide for \$15.95.

Messiah accreditation reaffirmed

Messiah College recently received notice that its accreditation has been renewed by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Although this evaluation was the col-

lege's third, it was the first time that Messiah was approved on the basis of a special topics—rather than an overall—review. According to the college president, D. Ray Hostetter, the fact that Middle States allowed this type of evaluation was a vote of confidence for the college. He commented, "I am very gratified by the positive nature of the overall report of the accreditation review team."

Messiah's self-study report to Middle States concentrated on curriculum since the college is in the process of reviewing its general education, major, and minor course content and requirements. Middle States' suggestions for improvement focused on the relationship between the college and its sister institution, Daystar University College in Kenya.

The accreditation status of every school under the purview of the Middle States Association is reviewed every 10 years. Messiah was first accredited in 1963; the next college-wide review will come in 2003. ■

Discipleship in the 21st Century

What kind of people?

Christians in the first century were asked this question by the Apostle Peter. The Apostle, in his second letter, reviews the prevalence of wickedness, and the certainty of the coming of the Lord with its judgment upon those who follow ungodly ways. In light of these considerations, Peter asks, "What kind of people ought you to be?"

The same question comes to North American Christians with new urgency in the closing years of the 20th century. For several centuries we have enjoyed life in a society informed and fundamentally molded by Judaeo-Christian theological and ethical precepts. Now, however, our wider society no longer lives by those precepts. Indices of societal health are down. Persons in positions of power in our localities, education system, judiciary, and state and federal governments work at undermining the precepts dear to Christians. The national departure from Christ's ways has been paralleled by a decline in societal well-being. Personal integrity, productivity, and generosity are in dwindling supply, reflected in malaise in industry, a sluggish economy, increasing expectations from gov-

ernment, reduced educational performance of students, rising violence, health care resources stretched by a needless burden of lifestyle-related illnesses and injuries, and the list could go on. The decline of societal health bodes ominously for the foreseeable future, at least into the next century.

What will life be like at the start of the 21st century? One does not need a crystal ball to expect further economic distress; greater disparity between the rich and the poor, with a larger percentage of poor; increasing violence; greater stresses on democracy and freedom as we've enjoyed them. Or possibly we'll see the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to institute a new order.

Surely it's a mistake to conclude that these are the worst times the world has seen. Neither has our national past been devoid of severe societal ailments. But the present time presents its own unique and urgent challenges of Christian discipleship.

To the Brethren in Christ in 1993 comes the question: In light of all of the above, what kind of people should we be? The Board for Brotherhood Concerns does not pose to have all the answers, nor

necessarily the best commentary, but we'd like in this new column to share thoughts about being followers of Jesus in these times.

First, let us avoid being reactionary. It's easy to allow frustrations and revulsions to push us into imbalance. Then we're apt to espouse extreme countermeasures, which may be appealing because they represent action, but may be non-Christian in their motivation or their nature. In our responses, let us be Christianly proactive, instead of reactionary.

Further, let us recognize that in the gathering darkness the light of Jesus Christ can have greater brilliance. The message of Jesus has stronger appeal as the needs of people grow beyond their ability to cope. Those who follow him most genuinely become more conspicuous. There remain many such followers. We see in the present adversity a great opportunity for proclaiming Jesus as Savior from the depressing human condition.

With this optimism, we will explore in monthly columns the nature of discipleship for the 21st century: what kind of people we Christians should be in these times.—*Samuel M. Brubaker*

Dear Paul,

This morning I happened to glance over the obituaries in the *Colossae Times*. The name Tychius caught my attention. It turned out to be Mr. Tychius, my trade school instructor for Woodworking 1. He looked much younger in the accompanying picture than I remembered. (But then to us teenage boys, anyone with gray hair seemed ancient.)

As I finished my morning coffee, I thought about Mr. T. and the key influence he had on my young life. Granted he had some peculiar mannerisms that our class mimicked whenever his back was turned. But in spite of our antics, most of us liked and respected him. He was a no-nonsense teacher who pushed us toward excellence. Mr. T. was also fair and kind. The day I broke the school's saw, he silenced my classmates' snickers and helped me work out a reasonable payment plan to replace it.

However, what I remember best was Mr. T.'s obvious love of woodcrafting. He found a way to pass that fondness on to an awkward, shy 13-year-old boy and encouraged me to pursue a fledgling interest in that field. I owe that start of my career to him.

Others have influenced my life in positive ways, too. Philemon, my former owner, demonstrated genuine Christian charity by forgiving my youthful negligence in running away. Before I became a believer, I thought Philemon was really soft with us slaves. Some of us tried to get away with doing less than he asked. Several times I would have expected a horsewhipping, but each time Philemon quietly but firmly admonished me to do the job again—correctly.

In retrospect I realize that though my actions disappointed and angered him, Philemon's commitment to the way of Christ enabled him to act redemptively. He was helping me to develop self-discipline, to take pride in my work, and to gain the motivation to do the task right the first time.

Paul, have I ever expressed my gratitude for the pivotal role you have

played in my life? Not only did you lead me to the Living Christ, but you saw potential for responsibility and usefulness in a runaway slave. Perhaps the confidence you showed in me has done more for building my character and bolstering my self-image than anything else. It's humbling to imagine where I might be without your fatherly care and love.

Though I am still relatively young, I'm wondering how my life can impact others in a positive way. Of course, my toddler-age son imitates whatever Daddy does; I know that father-son role modeling is extremely important. But there's also a neighbor boy who hangs around my shop, lonely for male company since his parents' divorce. Could it be that the Lord is giving me the

opportunity to make a difference in his life as well? I also think about the brothers and sisters in our fellowship who are newer to the faith than I. They need encouragement and models of integrity.

Just as you admonished Brother Timothy, I want to "set an example in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity." It's awesome and somewhat frightening to realize that others are now looking to me for guidance. I don't want to let them down or disappoint those—like you and Philemon and even Mr. T.—who have invested themselves in me.

Still growing up in the faith,
Onesimus

Readers Respond

"Pastors at risk," by Warren Hoffman [August *Visitor*] was a tremendous article.

In jest I have made the statement that many church members are born with an extra gene called the "kill the preacher gene." However, it is far from a laughing matter. In fact, is it not tragic, when men are called to such a high calling, that so many stand in their way, doing all they can to cause them to doubt their God-given call?

Pastors are called to lead, yet so many times they are criticized when they take on that role. We make no room for any weakness in their life or ministry. We expect them to be all things to all people. They are expected to do all the ministry of the church, including all visitation, and are criticized if they do not.

We prefer to criticize instead of pray. Many are still resistant to adequate remuneration for the pastor. Some are guilty of the attitude, "Lord, you keep him humble; we will keep him poor!"

One of my daughters refers to me as "the protector of the pastors." I consider this to be one of the greatest compliments I have ever received.

Scriptural admonition is to uphold and pray for our leaders. Fellow Brethren in Christ members, please help turn the trend around and give our pastors all the support, love, and prayers they need and deserve. We will see God bless our church in a marvelous way.

Esther Lenker
Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Contributions invited for *Dialogue* and *Readers Respond*

Persons contributing to *Readers Respond* (letters to the editor) are encouraged to be concise. Letters may be shortened. All letters must be signed. Occasionally we may decide to withhold names due to special circumstances.

Longer contributions are welcomed for *Dialogue*, a forum for readers to express their opinions on a broad range of topics relevant to the mission of the church and to living the Christian life.

Each article or letter represents the view of the writer, and does not necessarily reflect the official position or policy of the Brethren in Christ Church or this periodical.

Wilderness experiences

by John A. Byers

Wilderness hiking is vigorous. I have heard participants tell about the challenge of finding the way without maps, coping with aloneness, and learning to live on what is available from nature. One might wonder why anyone would do such a thing.

Wilderness experiences are necessary and helpful in dealing with change. Think about the "desert stories" in Scripture. Israel was reeling under the oppressiveness of Egyptian slavery. One day God got the attention of one of their members, Moses, and called him to lead Israel out of bondage. That call, which meant change, came to Moses while in the

midst of a wilderness experience. He led the Israelites to freedom, but they had a massive wilderness encounter. Forty years they milled around in the desert.

There are other desert accounts. Jesus was in the wilderness before he began his ministry, as were John the Baptist and Paul. The wilderness equals preparation.

Think again about Israel. It has been suggested that they needed that long a time to be prepared for Canaan living. They required time to get over Egypt: the love of garlic and onions. They needed to be introduced to the personal nature of God—his covenant with Israel. Moses' arrival and their subsequent deliverance brought change. All changes include transition, and transitions have a wilderness-like quality.

William Bridges describes change as a process that includes both actions and feelings. The actions are easily recognized. Israel left Egypt. They

were very glad to go. It was their feelings or emotions that gave them trouble. Away from the physical torture and faced with the fear of the unknown, their emotions troubled them. They liked the climate; there were friends back there and they enjoyed the food. Their journey came because of a wilderness moment, i.e., when emotions became stronger than the actions taken. If it had not happened, they may have arrived in Canaan merely as relocated Egyptians. That was not what God had in mind.

Every believer can draw a personal application. I want to point to a vital corporate lesson for us as Brethren in Christ.

We have made decisions that change the way ministry occurs. It seems there is an expectation that if it was the right decision things would move on without any wilderness milling. But we are no different from Israel, Jesus, John the Baptist, and Paul. The struggle with some ambiguity and discomforts makes us a "prepared people"—not merely a relocated denomination.

Two temptations face us in such times. One is to avoid change. The other is to attempt change but avoid the wilderness. Neither option is acceptable. The first means deadness. The second results in transition overload that diminishes the effectiveness of divinely directed changes.

Let's walk the wilderness segments of the journey in the confidence that God is preparing us for a new and more effective ministry.

An invitation to write articles for the Brethren in Christ Encyclopedia

The Brethren in Christ Historical Society is producing an encyclopedia on the Brethren in Christ Church. A list of several thousand subjects for articles to include in the encyclopedia has been compiled and is being circulated to the project's Advisory Council and Editorial Committee. The list is divided into 20 subjects, including biographies, congregations, doctrines and practices, institutions, and the non-North American churches.

Most articles for the encyclopedia probably will run from one-half to two or three doubled-spaced typewritten pages. The deadline for submitting articles will be approximately mid-1995.

The Editorial Committee invites all who are interested in writing one or more articles to contact the General Editor, E. Morris Sider, at Messiah College, Grantham, PA 17027, for a list of available topics.



John Byers is Director of Bishops for the Brethren in Christ Church.

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A Song of Praise

How good it is to give thanks to you, O Lord,
to sing in your honor, O Most High God,
to proclaim your constant love every morning
and your faithfulness every night,
with the music of stringed instruments
and with melody on the harp.
Your mighty deeds, O Lord, make me glad;
because of what you have done, I sing for joy.

Psalm 92:1-4, TEV

1713 LT 00-00
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